

# DisabilityNOW

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winning  
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in disability

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## Car insurers told 'play fair or else'

Most motor insurance companies discriminate against disabled drivers and will be in breach of the Government's anti-discrimination bill once it becomes law, a new survey reveals.

The Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (RICA), an independent charity set up by the publishers of *Which?*, surveyed 48 companies last October and found that only 12 did not load premiums on four disability groups – arthritis, stroke, paraplegia and multiple sclerosis.

Where premiums were loaded, disabled drivers had to pay up to 50 per cent more than their able-bodied counterparts.

All companies would insure people with arthritis, but 12 would not insure people who had a stroke, 13 would not ensure those with paraplegia and 16 would not insure those with MS.

In a May letter to Association of British Insurers (ABI) director-general Mark Boleat, RICA chairperson Lynne Turner-Stokes and director David Yelding pointed out that the Government's anti-discrimination bill aims to ensure that disabled people have the same right to goods

and services as everyone else.

They quoted from the Government's consultation paper: "Insurers will be allowed to charge higher premiums only to the extent that the extra charge is based on actuarial data or other good reason."

They asked for evidence to support higher premiums or the denial of insurance to large sections of disabled people.

Mr Yelding said: "The report shows that firms discriminate against disabled people without evidence to justify their actions."

ABI spokesperson Derek Falwell said: "We take the issue very seriously and are having talks with the Disabled Drivers' Association. We agree that insurers must justify any premium differentials."

The survey is part of an Ability Car Guide for elderly and disabled drivers.

*Crippen's view, page 3  
Guide and insurance list, page 14*

Pain, pain, go away: Rebecca Hollick, of Stoke Prior, Worcestershire, was just six years old when she drew a picture for her doctor to describe her pain of arthritis.

Now the picture is being used by the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council to illustrate a nationwide poster campaign to raise awareness of the condition. The picture shows Rebecca, now aged nine, with nails in her joints.

"I hope it will help other children," said Rebecca.

*Arthritis Care crisis, page 2*

## Lord rebukes Motability

Labour's Lord Carter has voiced suspicions in the House of Lords that the Motability scheme is guilty of fraud and excessive profit making, while Liberal Democrat MP Alex Carlile QC is calling for an independent inquiry.

"It seems to me that Motability and its associated companies have proved to be a very

nice, big earner for someone on the back of disabled people," said Lord Carter. "There are many questions that need to be answered."

He was speaking at the committee stage of the Disability Discrimination Bill on 15 June.

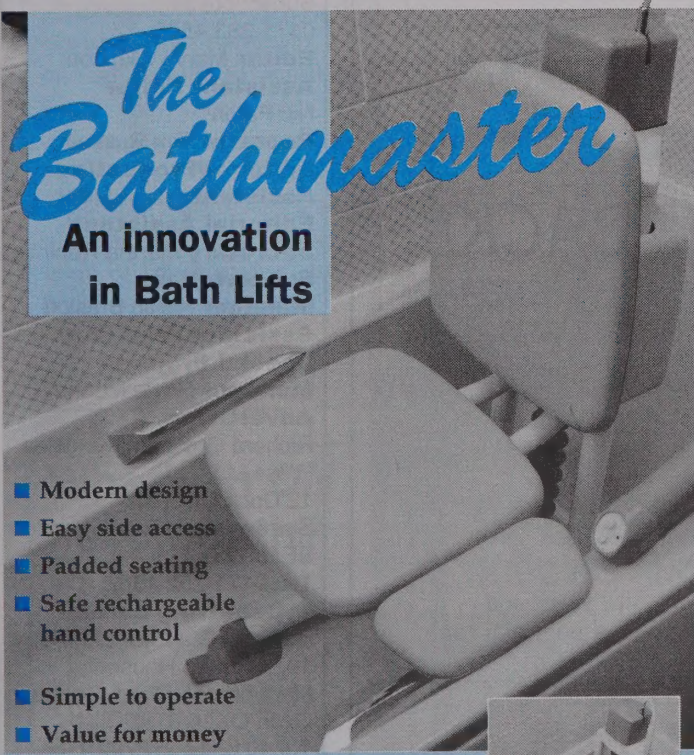
He asked how much profit Motability Finance Ltd (MFL) and its two partnerships, set up by six clearing banks, make from financing the leasing of

cars via the charity Motability.

MFL receives £360 million a year of disabled customers' Disability Living Allowance mobility component, he said. 220,000 vehicles, about 5 per cent of the new car market, is involved and "informed sources" put last year's operating profit at over £100 million.

He asked why £5 million of Department of Social Security

*Continued on page 2*



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# Arthritis Care crisis

The charity Arthritis Care fears it could suffer a £200,000 drop in funds this year because of the impact of the National Lottery.

The result could be cuts in grass-roots services like counselling, respite care and grants.

Peter Maple, director of funding, predicted that funds could be down by as much as 15 per cent. As a "worst case scenario", this could mean a loss of £200,000, he predicted.

The 70,000-member charity tends to operate through local groups spending locally-raised funds, so the short-term impact of any loss could be substantial.

Income from legacies is also down, putting further pressure on cash flow, said Mr Maple.

"We are having to run very

hard simply to stand still. We already operate on very, very low overheads. We are not a charity with very large reserves. If our cash flow was to be adversely affected, we would have to respond."

The charity has also suffered an estimated 25 per cent drop on its own lottery.

Mr Maple called for a larger levy of lottery cash to be directed to charities. "I think there is scope for Government to provide compensation in response to unfair competition.

"Even when charities do start to get money, it will be a lottery. There is no guarantee that we will even get money or that that will compensate for the loss. That is the real worry."

A Department of National Heritage spokesperson said the Government had no plans to compensate charities that have lost funding.

"Any loss they believe they have suffered has to be balanced out by the fact that the National Lottery has to date given £616 million to good causes and £223 million to charities."

The Government had agreed to set up a committee to monitor the impact of the lottery on charities, he added.

Camelot, which runs the National Lottery, said how the cash was distributed was not a matter for them. "Our role is simply to raise as much money as possible for good causes," said a spokesperson.



Swing high, sweet chariot: Steve Hobson relaxes after taking part in a seven-team dash to the summit of Mount Snowdon on 10 June. Mr Hobson, who has multiple sclerosis (ms), was lifted to the top of the 3,000-ft summit by a team from DFDS Transport in under two hours and raised £20,000 for a new ms centre in Manchester. "We must be mad, but it was worth it," said Mr Hobson.

## Lord rebukes Motability

*Continued from page 1*

(DSS) money and £35 million of profits from MFL were given to the Motability Tenth Anniversary Trust, not to Motability.

He also alluded to car manufacturers, such as Honda and Renault, being excluded from the scheme while others, like Ford, had a Motability department.

Lord Inglewood, for the Government, said that Motability and MFL had been reviewed to ensure customers and taxpayers got best value for money, but he would respond in detail by letter.

Meanwhile, MP Alex Carlile has called for an independent

inquiry into the relationship between Motability and MFL.

"What I care about is that we should have a clear picture as far as Motability is concerned, so people can see that the charity and MFL are run in a proper way," he said.

"Lord Sterling (Motability's chairman) and Gerry Acher (vice-chairman) have no reason to resist an independent inquiry. I hope they would welcome it as a sensible and economic way to clear the air. These complaints will run and run if they are not settled."

Many disabled people are worried that Motability relies too heavily on one company for its financial services, leaving no

room for competition. This runs counter to charity law, which requires trustees to maintain their independence and get the best deal for their beneficiaries.

Mr Carlile has asked Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley four questions, due to be answered on 19 June. For example, how much money is in the contingency reserve held by Motability Car Leasing (predicted to be nearly £80 million by 1998) and if it is necessary. He hopes the results of the DSS internal review will be revealed.

He is worried the National Audit Office inquiry, though reaching into MFL, may be too broad to focus on specific problems.

## Remploy under fire

Less disabled Remploy workers are being "creamed off" the factory floor, leaving their more severely disabled colleagues to fight for ever-decreasing contracts, it was alleged on 14 June.

Labour MP John Hutton said staff feared the company's "interwork" scheme, which encourages workers to move out of supported workplaces into more open employment.

They are worried they could move to "low-skilled jobs with poor training and less security in inaccessible workplaces".

He was speaking during a

Commons debate on Remploy's future. The Government had played "knock-about party-political comment" rather than address fears of workers, he said.

Employment Minister Phillip Oppenheim refused to rule out further mergers of Remploy factories, such as those in Nottinghamshire (DN March).

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## Whodunnit?

An error by a sign language interpreter caused the collapse of a murder trial in June, at a cost of more than £1 million to the taxpayer.

Joanne Smith and brother-in-law Barry Smith, who are both deaf, and their friend Darren Sams, were being tried at the Old Bailey for the alleged murder of Fred Clancy when an interpreter admitted he had made a mistake in the interpretation. He said the mistake had been made through tiredness. Judge Nina Lowry decided it was impossible to continue the trial without there being a danger of injustice.

## Peace dividend

A disabled Belfast taxi driver won the right in May to ply his trade in the centre of the city. In doing so, Paul Smyth, who drives a specially adapted black taxi, has become the first taxi driver to be allowed to operate within the main security gates that ring the city. The decision was reached in an out-of-court settlement with the Royal Ulster Constabulary, who had previously refused Mr Smyth entry on security grounds.

## Care tax call

Charity Help the Aged is calling for a special "care tax" to meet the growing cost of caring for Britain's elderly population.

Workers and employers would pay about £300 a year under the scheme. Mervyn Kohler, head of public affairs, said it was "perfectly obvious" that there was not enough money any more to fund the care needs of elderly people. The call was made in a report, *Coming Clean on Care Costs\**, that also accused the Government of "disengaging" from its care responsibilities.

\*Free, tel: 0171-253 0253.

## What's in DN next month?

\* David Griffiths reports on the Mobility Road Show

\* United Airlines' new Boeing 777 "reflects the passengers' needs in every way". Does it? DN finds out

\* Out and About - more hot summer holiday ideas

... plus post-19s, hobbies, complementary therapies and the best jobs

# Parents in legal log jam

Parents battling to get the best education for their disabled children through the Department for Education's (DFE) Special Needs Tribunal are stuck in a log-jam of bureaucracy and legal wrangling.

The tribunal, set up after the 1993 Education Act to arbitrate between parents and local

authorities as to what provision children with special needs should receive, has been unable to cope with the backlog of cases that have built up.

Of 700 cases registered since cases began to be accepted in September, only 143 have so far been heard, with an average processing time of four months.

When the DFE set up the tribunal, it intended it to be an informal, speedy way of resolving disputes.

What it did not anticipate, says special needs solicitor Jack Rabinowicz, is that parents would want to be represented at the hearings, often by lawyers, so slowing down the process.

"Parents will be at a disadvantage unless they have someone who knows what is going on.

"If you give people perceived rights, they will exercise them."

The tribunal needed to employ more staff, he suggested, before the process could run smoothly.

"Until the year is up, it is a learning curve for everyone."

## Deaf windfall 'no contradiction'

The Royal School for the Deaf in Derby scooped a windfall of £50,000 from the Arts Council as part of its lottery fund allocation in May.

The money will go to setting

up a signed video archive.

Arts Council chairman Lord Gowrie, who announced the award, said that giving cash to a disability project, after he had closed the council's disability

unit on 31 March, was not a contradiction.

Lord Gowrie said: "You must not confuse what is concern with an issue and the reorganisation of a bureaucracy."

## Mine's not even a pint...

A deaf man was turned out of a pub in June by a landlady who objected to his hearing dog, writes Julie Nightingale.

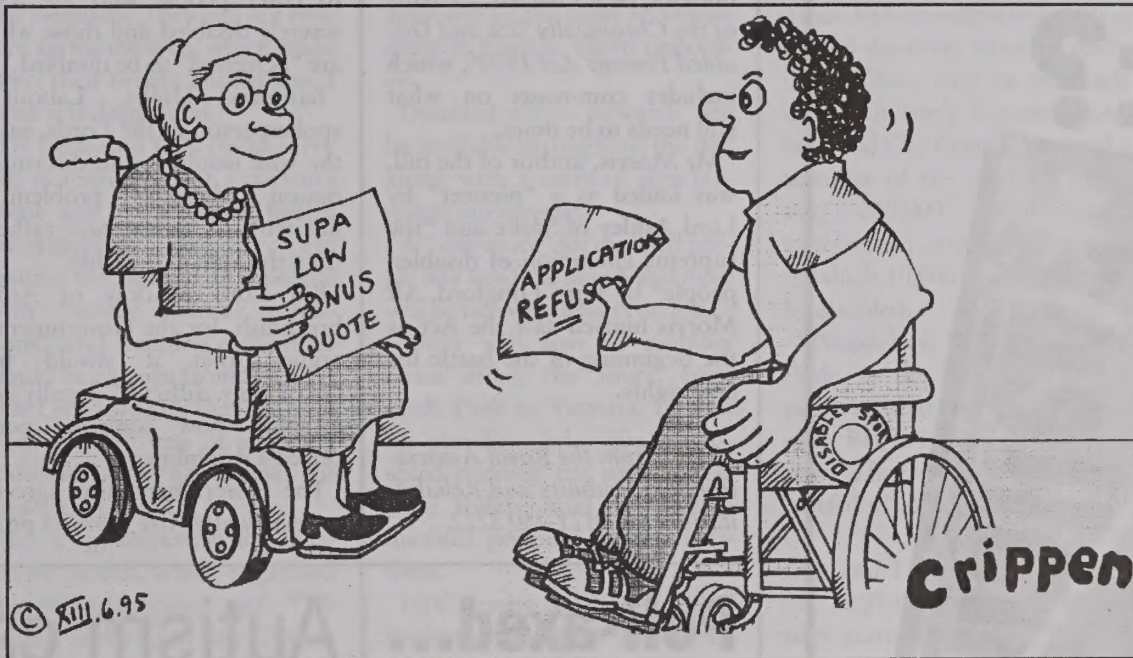
Paul Boulton and his dog Jamie were told to leave The Tap and Tumbler in Nottingham after landlady Brenda Wilkinson said it was not her policy to allow dogs in.

"We told her he was a guide dog, but we were still told 'out'," said 30-year-old Mr Boulton.

Mrs Wilkinson said: "A dog would get crushed in here on Friday and Saturday nights.

"We are certainly not going to change our minds. I could understand it if he was blind, but what does he need a dog for?"

Liz Pitt of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf said: "It is difficult for the general public to understand. People can see if a person's blind, but a deaf person's disability goes unnoticed."



"... so what have you got that I haven't, Gran - arthritis?"! Car insurers told 'play fair', page 1



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DN7/95

# Lords' triple blow to Government

The Government was defeated on three counts in the House of Lords on 15 June, as peers voted to amend the Disability Discrimination Bill's (DDB) definition of disability and won concessions on the exemption of small firms and the accessibility of taxis.

The amendment on definition will mean the bill being extended to cover people who are less severely disabled and those who are "perceived" to be disabled.

Baroness Hollis, Labour's spokesperson in the Lords, said the vote would forbid discrimination "where the problem... lies with the perception rather than the actual disability".

But Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, for the Government, argued that it would be "extremely difficult" legally to establish how someone perceived a disability.

The Government also agreed to review after five years its pro-

posals to allow firms with less than 20 employees to opt out of the bill, and to amend the bill so as to require all newly licensed black cabs to be made wheelchair accessible.

The bill, which is currently in its committee stage, is expected to go to report stage on 18 and 20 July.

\* Industrialists want a stronger enforcement body within the DDB, but fall shy of backing a full-blown rights commission.

Robbie Gilbert, director of employment affairs at the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), urged MPs and Lords in June to back a body similar to the conciliation service ACAS.

"ACAS has never had direct prosecuting powers, but remains an independent source of advice and assistance," he told the All Party Disablement Group.

"We would like to see that kind of flavour fed forward into the disability area."

Commons Speaker Betty Boothroyd and MP Alf Morris (left), at the big party in June to celebrate the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. With them are Derek Kinrade and DN's Ann Darnbrough who presented a copy of their celebration booklet, *Be it Enacted, 25 Years of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970\**, which includes comments on what still needs to be done.

Mr Morris, author of the bill, was hailed as a "pioneer" by Lord Ashley of Stoke and "the supreme champion of disabled people" by Lord Longford. Alf Morris himself saw the Act as the beginning of the battle for civil rights.

\*£2.50, from the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, tel: 0171-250 3222.

## Poll-axed...

People who are visually impaired, but want to vote in person during elections should ask someone to help them, advised the Home Office in May.

The Government has no plans to introduce braille ballot papers for local, national or European elections, it was also revealed during a debate on electoral registration in the Lords.

Liberal Democrat Lord Tope condemned the move.

## Autism care concern

Just one in three children in north London with autism or Asperger's syndrome have access to adequate specialised treatment, MPs heard in May.

Hartley Booth, Tory MP for Finchley, has co-authored, with the North East London Autistic Society (NELAS), the first-ever survey of autistic care provision in the region.

*Going the Distance\** found that, for the 1,100 children

needing specialist care in north London, there were only 350 care places.

He urged the Government to set up an inquiry into the needs of children with autism. Ministers should also provide more funding for residential and educational facilities, respite care for parents, and day provision for adults with autism.

\*£1, NELAS, tel: 0181-520 4123.

## Gas cuts slammed Fog of war?

British Gas was accused in May of slashing "an extremely valuable" service for elderly and disabled people.

During a debate on the Gas Bill, which proposes the deregulation of the industry, Labour consumer affairs spokesperson Nigel Griffiths condemned the privatised utility for cutting its home advice service.

The advisers visit homes to ensure that gas appliances are safe and easy to use, especially those of elderly, disabled or visually impaired people.

"At a face-to-face meeting,

British Gas told me that it had to cut the budget in that sector to compete with the new firms that the Government seeks to bring into the gas market," he said.

The number of advisers had dropped from 136 to 78 in 18 months, he added.

Mr Griffiths' accusations were "exaggerated rhetoric", replied Energy Minister Tim Eggar.

Suppliers would have to provide "a series of special services on request and without charge to pensioners and the disabled. Some will require home visits." *Gas "party poopers", page 9*

The Government is "ignoring" Gulf War syndrome, the mystery condition affecting veterans, the Commons' Defence Select Committee heard in June.

541 veterans are suing the Ministry of Defence. They blame side-effects caused by nerve gas and chemical attack inoculations (*DN February*).

Vice-Admiral Tony Revell, surgeon general of the armed forces, said the stress of being in an alien environment, coupled with the fear of chemical, biological and scud missile attacks, could have been the cause.



# ICB doctor faces stormy meeting

Disability campaigners picketed Islington Town Hall in May while a Benefits Agency doctor tried to reassure welfare rights workers that disabled people had nothing to fear from the new Incapacity Benefit (ICB) tests.

Dr Graham Leek told the meeting, organised by the London Welfare Rights and Health Group, that 101 GPs in the north London region, which

will be looked at carefully."

He said the GPs had been given a four-hour training course on how to assess mental health survivors. But Maureen Oliver of Kingston Users Forum, a group of mental health survivors, slammed this training as "totally inadequate".

"It is utterly ridiculous," she said. "GPs need far more than four hours to understand such a complicated subject. Six weeks would be more realistic."

"I am also concerned about the effects of ICB tests. Many mental health survivors will find the whole experience so intimidating and traumatic, they will not even turn up for the tests, which could affect their benefit entitlement. I think it is disgraceful."

Dr Leek said GPs could carry out examinations at a person's home and use a mental health interpreter if necessary. He assured the meeting that people with "severe mental conditions" and learning difficulties would be exempt from tests.

Dr Leek told DN that the tests were a "fair" way of assessing claimants and "good news for disabled people".

But a spokesperson for Incapacity Action, which organised the demonstration, said: "We cannot understand why GPs are participating in an exercise that can only increase health problems through the severe stress caused by money worries."



Dr Graham Leek: under fire  
BRENT MOORE

includes Oxford, Southend and Peterborough, would assess a person's mental and physical "functions" according to a points system. The tests will be carried out at 24 examination centres. Twenty of the GPs will do the job on a full-time basis.

"These are all experienced practitioners who are experts at examining disabled people," said Dr Leek, who often had to raise his voice to be heard above the shouts of chanting protesters.

"The GPs will be monitored all the time, and any complaints

## Parents fight over car fumes

Parents of children with asthma are threatening High Court action unless the main road through Greenwich, south-east London, is closed during periods of high pollution.

The parents' demand for a judicial review provides the first test case for the Government's

contention that local authorities can curb traffic to protect health.

Mick Gebbett, one of the organisers, said: "Every classroom here has children who need inhalers to help them get through bad days. The appalling traffic is to blame."



Thousands of disabled people took part in last year's Pride march  
RICHARD MAUDE

## Pride goes accessible

This year's Gay and Lesbian Pride march in London on 24 June will be the most accessible event in Europe, claim organisers.

Disabled access stewards will be available throughout the day, along with a team of sign language interpreters.

A "safe space" for disabled people will head the march and there will be free wheelchairs on loan.

There will also be mobility buses along the route, from Hyde Park to Victoria, to pick up marchers who tire, a disabled persons' car park, accessible toilets, and a 4ft-high disabled persons' viewing platform.

HIV charity the Red Admiral Project will release 24,000 red balloons, one for each person who has been diagnosed

HIV positive in the UK.

March organiser The Pride Trust has co-ordinated with a special disability working party.

Kier Oak, who is on trade union Unison's National Lesbian and Gay Committee, and a member of the working party, said 200,000 people were expected to attend the march, of which 10,000 are expected to be disabled.

"People have been sceptical of Pride in the past because of promises that have not come to pass. But it is not just talk this year. They have listened very carefully," she said.

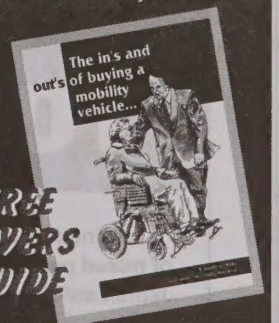
Gay and Lesbian Pride assemblies at 11am in Hyde Park. Festival starts at 3pm in Victoria Park, London E9. Tel: 0171-737 6903.

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# Hoteliers lie about access

Hoteliers are ignorant of the needs of disabled people, and may even lie about their accessibility because they do not know what kind of facilities are required.

This is the stark warning facing disabled people as they head off for their holidays this summer.

Keith Grover, owner of the Laurels Hotel, Plymouth, which provides specialist facilities for disabled holidaymakers, believes hoteliers often say their hotels are accessible when, in reality, they are not. This is because they do not know what disabled people need.

"If they say they have facilities, they should define their level of disability access.

"Hoteliers must not be embarrassed to ask questions about disability."

Local authorities and tourist boards must co-ordinate more to ensure that both hotels and local attractions are accessible, he said.

And charity the Holiday Care Service (HCS) needs to tighten up its classifications.

"They should get their message out to hoteliers more. The problem is getting the informa-

tion across," he said.

HCS director David Phillips said he sympathised with Mr Grover, but that, as a small charity, it could only afford a limited pool of inspectors.

The HCS has launched a "friends" scheme, whereby members can pay a £10 yearly donation and get priority access to HCS's reservation service.

Some hoteliers are trying to get their act together.

In June the Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability (PoWADG) launched a Hoteliers' Forum to promote disabili-

ty awareness among hoteliers.

The forum, which includes representatives from PoWADG, 14 hotel chains, Tourism for All and the HCS, will hold regular meetings to exchange information and ideas.

Forum secretary Jo Gardiner said: "This is a genuine initiative and one supported by hoteliers. I have been very impressed by their commitment."

*The Laurels, tel: (01752) 830580.*

*HCS, tel: (01293) 774535.*

*The Hoteliers' Forum, tel: 0171-403 9433.*



Disabled people and carers demonstrated their anger with placards and a petition at Hertfordshire County Hall in June. They were protesting about council proposals to make them pay for attending day centres. A national campaign against local authorities imposing charges is being co-ordinated by mental health charity Mencap.

IN-PRESS PHOTOGRAPHY

## Fête accompli?

Police in Northampton are warning people to be on the lookout for a man who may be going around village fêtes claiming he is raising money for people with cerebral palsy (cp).

The man was running a tombola at a fête in Wellingborough, with a sign saying "Help cerebral palsy". When queried, he knew nothing about the condition and later disappeared.

Fundraiser Fred Linden-Wyatt was with his daughter Shelley, who has cp, when he became suspicious. A disgusted Mr Linden-Wyatt said: "We're hit by the lottery at one end and rogues at the other."

## 18-hour wait in Spain

Julie Nightingale reports

A group of disabled holidaymakers had an 18-hour wait for a flight home from Spain in May after a mix-up over their bookings.

The party of 13 from the Ashfield, Nottinghamshire PHAB (physically handicapped and able-bodied) group, were booked on a scheduled flight from Almeria to East Midlands Airport.

But when the pilot discovered that a party of eight disabled people from Stoke on Trent was also booked on the plane, he refused to take off, saying carrying them all would pose a threat to safety under Spanish air traffic regulations.

The Ashfield group, who had been on a two-week package

holiday with Airtours, had to wait for a later flight to Birmingham International Airport.

PHAB group leader Anita Reavill-Bust said that, when the pilot refused to fly both groups, they had decided to let the others go first.

Airtours has apologised and ordered a review of procedures. It has also offered a £700 discount on their next booking.

**Do you have a holiday horror story? If so, DN would like to hear from you. Call the newsdesk on 0171-636 5020. If you can't afford the cost of a call, don't worry, we'll ring you straight back.**

## Can you care for Lorraine?

Lorraine is a delightful 2 year old child of mixed parentage. Her father is Black Jamaican/Chinese, her mother is White English.

Lorraine has an engaging smile and very affectionate nature. She relates well to both children and adults and is generally happy and sociable.

Lorraine has multiple disabilities and is therefore dependent on sustained, intensive care and therapy. She was born with Worster Drought Bulbar Palsy which has left her with difficulties swallowing and delay of speech. She has to be regularly fed via a gastrostomy tube leading directly into her stomach. She also has poor eyesight and may have learning difficulties. She is not fully mobile but is able to crawl, she has the potential to walk and is expected to progress to walking in the future.



Lorraine can display some difficult behaviour such as head banging but has made some progress in the last few months. She enjoys stimulating play and going for walks and outings.

Lorraine needs a permanent family who have a lot of time and energy and are able to draw on good support networks. The family should reflect Lorraine's ethnicity and culture and ideally she should be the youngest in the family.

Lorraine has two older brothers with whom some contact is to be maintained, so the family should preferably be in the London area.

If you are interested and wish to know more, please contact: Rosa Simpson on 0171 525 2995 or the Duty Officer on 0171 525 2962/2963 at Southwark Social Services, Adoption & Fostering Unit, 27/29 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, London SE5 0EZ.

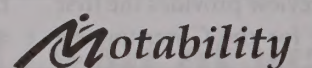


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## Baby with the bionic right arm

A month-old baby has become the youngest British child to receive an artificial electronic limb.

Martin Calder, from Paisley, Scotland, can already clench the hand and doctors hope he will soon be able to pick things up.

The device works by picking up impulses transmitted from the brain to muscles in the end of his shortened arm.

Mark Broomfield, a researcher at Strathclyde University, said: "I am delighted with the way Martin has adapted to the hand because older children often reject the device. At the moment he can clench the hand, but he is so determined it may only be weeks before he picks up a toy."

"I hope he will eventually have an artificial arm that can feel. US scientists are working on this."

## Unit opens

Europe's first Magnetic Resonance Imaging Unit dedicated solely to people with epilepsy has been built at the headquarters of the National Society for

Epilepsy (NSE) in Buckinghamshire.

It uses a strong magnetic field to produce detailed 3-D images of the brain.

NSE medical director Simon Shovron said: "This new unit will allow extensive research into the causes of epilepsy and enable a more accurate diagnosis for most people with the condition."

## New CF trial starts

A new trial of a revolutionary treatment for cystic fibrosis (CF) started last month.

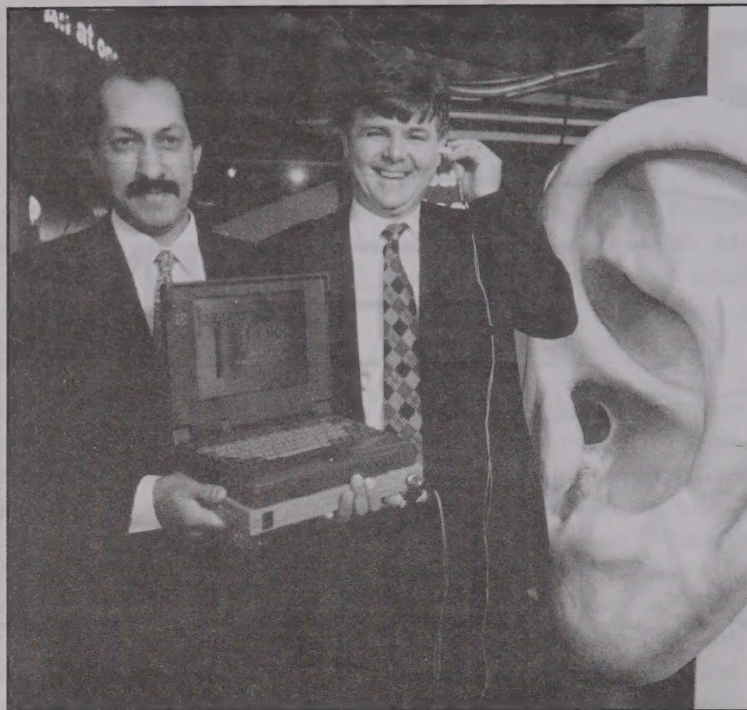
Four people in Oxford and eight in Cambridge will be given the correct copy of the gene, surrounded by microscopic fatty particles that should carry the gene into the cells lining the nose.

The trial is being organised by scientists from Cambridge, Leeds, Manchester and Oxford.

In CF, the lungs become clogged with mucus, leading to frequent infections. It affects about one in 2,300 children.

The correct gene will be introduced into the noses of the volunteers because the tissues inside the nose are similar to those of the lung but more accessible.

The research has been funded



Salim Khan (right) of Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust and Regan Cooper of Yorkshire Electricity try the new hearing test SAM ATKINS

by the Medical Research Council, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

## Ear today

Specialised hi-tech equipment has been installed at Bradford Royal Infirmary to test people for hearing impairments.

The equipment was presented by Yorkshire Electricity's community support programme to

the Ear Trust, a charity that helps people who are deaf and hearing impaired in Yorkshire.

The instrument detects hearing impairments by recording electrical activity in the inner ear.

"This is the latest equipment, providing quicker and more accurate results," said Salim Khan, audiology services manager for Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust. "It will allow us to speed up our testing of young children and disabled people who can be more difficult to test."

"This is very important

because if hearing loss is detected early enough, we can help children acquire language and communication skills."

## Gene find

A gene that appears to protect people from the worst effects of asthma has been identified by scientists at Nottingham's University Hospital.

The Glu 27 gene works by protecting airways to the lungs. Scientists believe people without Glu 27 are more likely to get asthma.

A National Asthma Council spokesperson said: "This may enable doctors to identify those most in need of care."

## Dementia helpline

A new service for people with dementia and their carers was launched by London's National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in May.

Counselling and Diagnosis in Dementia (CANDID) is a phone helpline that will give information to people with the condition and their carers.

Tel: 0171-836 3611, ext 3855.



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# British Gas party poopers

British Gas is under fire after scrapping a donation of party balloons for 43 severely disabled youngsters.

The British Gas balloons raised £60 when they were provided free of charge for the children's school fête last year.

But the company told White-down Special School, of Alton, Hampshire, there would be no balloons this year.

Head teacher Chrys Browne said: "Our children are profoundly disabled and many can't express themselves verbally. But you can see the joy in their faces when they see the balloons. Depriving them of this seems mean."

Last month's charity event

raised money for a hydrotherapy pool. The school was going to sell the balloons at 20p each.

Mrs Browne has asked for an explanation from British Gas chief executive Cedric Brown. Labour's Consumer Affairs spokesperson Nigel Griffiths said: "It defies belief that British Gas can't afford a few pounds for disabled children."

A British Gas spokesperson said: "We can't do something for every school. We try to spread our money."

He said other schools in the area might be getting balloons and added that British Gas has boosted its spending on education projects by £70,000 to £470,000 this year.



Picture power: this moving photograph came third in the Winged Fellowship's Images of Caring competition. Taken by Arthur Goldthorpe, from Leeds, it shows a boy helping his father. The competition, which aims to encourage people to think about different types of caring and coping in the 1990s, attracted over 1,000 entries.

## How Wilson opened up a new era for education

By Glynn Vernon

I have personal reasons to thank Harold Wilson. In 1969 I tried to gain admission to university, but one by one the conventional ones turned me down because of my disability. Then someone mentioned the Open University. Later, in 1972, I became the first disabled person to graduate entirely through the Open University system. Although I was not aware of it at the time, I was in at the beginning of a revolution of opportunity. The

Open University threw open doors to people to whom gradu-



Lord Wilson: a man of vision  
THE GUARDIAN

ate-level education had previously been an impossible dream.

I met people from all walks of life, but we had one thing in common. We were grasping opportunity which had not been there before. This was particularly true of disabled people.

The university was Harold Wilson's dream. It was one of his first acts on becoming Prime Minister and remained the thing he was most proud of.

It would be wrong to represent the Wilson Years as an era of gigantic progress for disability issues in general, and if it is true

that the Wilson family spent the final years of his life concealing the fact that Lord Wilson had Alzheimer's disease, then that is sad. However, there was a vision in the sixties, and somehow our present awareness of civil rights issues, including disability rights, grew out of that vision.

Great names were associated with that vision: John F Kennedy and Martin Luther King. Perhaps Lord Wilson's greatest gift was he seemed to understand something of that vision.

## In brief

### Credit Union launched

The Credit Union Research Project was launched by Tendring Dial, a support group for disabled people, in May.

The European Union-funded project will investigate setting up credit facilities for disabled people on benefits nationally. After saving for a time, members would be able to borrow funds.

Tel: (01255) 435566.

### Association launched

A trade association that represents manufacturers and suppliers of vehicles, equipment and adaptations for disabled people has been formed.

The Transport Mobility Products Association (MPA) aims to improve the standards of customer care, encourage technological innovation and improve the quality of products.

### Parking boost

The Department of Transport (DTP) issued new guidelines on parking facilities for disabled people in May. They advise councils and car park operators on the best location and design for parking bays, car park barriers and ticket machines.

### Jobs fair

Southwark Council and Toucan Employment are holding the first job fair for people with learning difficulties on 19 July.

It will give people a chance to find out about different jobs.

Tel: 0171-582 5981.

### Scope for celebration

Total weekly takings at Scope's shops broke through the half million barrier in May – the first time this amount has been raised in a week. Shops operation manager Sue Slocombe said: "The success was across the board and included every area."

### DSS video

A video on Disability Working Allowance has been produced by the Department of Social Security. It features the experiences of four claimants.

Freephone (0800) 882200.

### Correction:

From DN's June issue: the BBC's *Holiday* programme PO Box address is London W3 6XJ.

### Going to college?

DN is looking for a first-year disabled student to write a regular college diary about life on and off campus. If you think you'd fit the bill, please drop us a line. (for address, see page 2).

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# Charity faces 'extinction'

A charity that helps children with special needs on to the Internet may be forced to close in August because of falling donations.

Founded in 1987, The Chatback Trust gives 60 special schools computers, modems and all the software needed to connect to the Internet, as well as paying towards any charges.

The charity has also commissioned independent research to monitor the effectiveness and progress of disabled children on the Internet in 14 schools around the country.

"We spend about £90,000 a year on helping children with special needs on to the Internet system because it helps to increase their confidence and independence," said the charity's founder and chief executive Tom Holloway.

"But after eight years, donations have fallen to such a level that we are now threatened with extinction."

The trust would like to help more schools and students on to the Internet and wants to develop its own Internet Web pages, but these plans are now in jeopardy.

"It would be a tragedy if we closed down," said Mr Holloway. "Internet is a wonderful tool for children with special needs. It provides a bottomless well of information and enables them to get in touch with people from all over the world."

"If we go out of business, there will be nobody to fund these vital Internet connections for disabled children."

*The Chatback Trust, tel: (01926) 888333.*

## A ramp too far ...

An angry commuter has slammed British Rail's plans to build access ramps at west London line stations.

Roger Crosskey, from Hammersmith, fears the ramps, which extend 100 yards at a 1:12 gradient, will be too long for wheelchair users to climb.

He has complained to the Rail

Regulator and is calling on British Rail to fit lifts instead.

"I couldn't get up the ramp and it would be hard for all but the fittest wheelchair user to climb," he said.

A spokesperson for the Rail Regulator's office said the objection would be taken into account.



Wheel done: Brian Lewis, (right) from Chelmsford, and his partially-sighted wife Cathy celebrate after reaching Blackpool, the halfway stage of their 1,000 mile trek across Britain. Brian cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats on a Whizzer — a device which turns his wheelchair into a chair cycle. The dynamic duo, who reached their destination in June, raised over £1,000 for the British Computer Society's Disability Group.

## Play on prescription

A large dose of quality play will be just what the doctor ordered for children and their parents under a pioneering new scheme which was launched by Lichfield District Council in June.

Play on Prescription has been devised by the council to improve the lives of children with behavioural problems.

GPs, health visitors and social workers can refer children for special play sessions designed to help with the acquisition of lan-

guage and social skills.

Families eligible for the free sessions will be offered a wide range of leisure facilities, from mother and toddler groups to circus skill courses and days out at an amusement park.

Sue Smith, Lichfield Council's assistant director of leisure services, said: "We hope to ease the children's difficulties and tensions by providing them with good quality play in a safe and social environment."

## Students lack vital support

Deaf students urgently need more support to help them through their studies, claims a new report by researchers at Nottingham Trent University.

The team surveyed 99 universities and found that:

- The number of deaf students joining higher education is steadily rising, but the support they get is "still very patchy"
- Very few universities have human support services, such as interpreters, notetakers and lipreaders
- Enrolment arrangements and pre-application advice should be improved for deaf students.

It recommended that university staff attend deaf awareness courses and lecturers be shown how to work with sign language communicators.

The report recommends that the maximum levels of Disabled Students' Allowance be reviewed to ensure that it covers the full cost of providing interpreting support during lectures.

Researcher Sally Olohan said: "While progress is being made to encourage more deaf students to enter university, there is still much to be done to ensure they have the right level of support."

*Access and Communication Support for Deaf Students, £6, tel: (0115) 9418 8418. Minicom: (0115) 948 6858.*

## Building rules 'inadequate'

New building regulations intended to ensure that all new houses meet the access needs of disabled people do not go far enough, according to a professional body for town planners.

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has welcomed Government plans to extend the Part M Building Regulations, but fears the new regulations will only tackle half the problem and leave huge gaps in provision.

"Unless changes are made to planning guidance as well as building regulations, a fully accessible neighbourhood will not be achieved," said RTPI spokesperson Nick Davies.

"We need regulations that will ensure that the approach to the house, the driveway and surrounding streets are equally accessible, and that an appropriate amount of new houses are built to wheelchair occupier standards."

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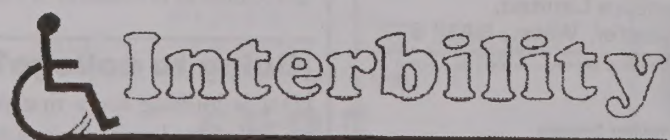
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# Legal battle

Six disabled people launched a test case in the High Court in June against the failure of Gloucestershire county council and the London borough of Islington to provide them with adequate care facilities. (DN December, 1994).

Gloucestershire said "inadequate resources" was the reason for withdrawing help from Wesley Mahood, Christopher Dartnell, Constance Grinham, and Michael and Violet Barry. Meanwhile, Daniel McMillan, from Islington, had services interrupted due to staff shortages.

The councils said they were forced to make the cutbacks because of the Government's decision to change its special transitional grant formula, which reduced the amount of community care funding they received.

Counsel for the six disabled people, Richard Gordon QC, said the Government and local authorities were disputing over

who was to blame for the cuts. But whether they were the result of lack of funding by the Government or budget mismanagement mattered less than the fact that the law entitled people to those services.

A judgment by Lord Justice McGowan and Mr Justice Waller is expected at the end of June.



Green-fingered schoolchildren Saeed Sasaei (left) and Habib Ali (centre) help their head teacher Mark Moser put the finishing touches to a new sensory garden at Queen Elizabeth II Special School in Westbourne Park, London.

The garden was funded by 20 local businesses and opened in June. It is split into small plots, each designed to stimulate different senses. Children can smell fragrant shrubs, listen to wind chimes and feel the flowers.

## Pioneering MS centre to open

An advanced therapy centre for people with multiple sclerosis will open at Trafford Park, Manchester, in early 1996.

The Centre of Excellence for the Management of Multiple Sclerosis will be the first of its kind in Britain.

Services provided will include physiotherapy, reflexology, yoga, oxygen therapy and counselling. A drop-in centre will give support and advice.

The Manchester friends of Action and Research for Multiple Sclerosis is raising £1 million to fund the centre, which will be one of the most advanced in Europe.

## Building sight

Architects are being given advice on how to design buildings for visually impaired people in a new book published by the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB).

*Building Sight*, launched at the Royal Institute of British Architects in June, examines the various problems architects can face while trying to meet blind people's needs and puts forward some solutions.

An RNIB spokesperson said: "This book fills a gap in the market. Most literature concentrates on people with physical disabilities."

*Building Sight*, £25, RNIB Customer Services, tel: (01345) 023153.

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# Russia's 'new era of dignity'

Russia announced a new national policy towards children with special needs in April.

The Government wants disabled children to be integrated into mainstream schools rather than isolated in residential institutions. Dr Alexander Asmolov, deputy federal education minister, said the change in policy heralded "a new era of dignity".

He admitted facing "a monumental task" to transform the lives of the country's 1.5 million children with special needs, especially as there would be no new funding to support the new policy of integration.

He said: "One of my political colleagues compared my dream of creating a culture of dignity for these children with the efforts of Don Quixote."

Dr Asmolov said he was confident, however, that the new "humanitarianism" of education would succeed.

He wants to promote choice in teaching methods and will be looking to pioneering projects, such as Moscow's Centre for Curative Pedagogics, to lead the

way and provide models for the rest of the country.

The centre is an independent project, set up in 1989, to support parents who want to keep their children at home.

It is funded by donations from parents and staffed by professionals and parents who are dissatisfied with the old Soviet approach to special needs.

Many children with autism and Down's syndrome were shut away because they did not fit the ideal model of a Soviet child.

A staff of 40 specialists work with more than 250 children. Educational programmes in local mainstream schools are devised for each child and an integrated kindergarten has been set up.

The centre's director Roman Dimernstein said: "We hope our treatment will make the life of these disabled children, their families, and of the entire society happier."

"We believe the children should not be without help even in the hardest times."



Therapist Medea Fedosseeva with Artiom, aged 7, at the Centre for Curative Pedagogics NICK HOLDSWORTH

## 'Forgotten' carers denied support

A new report published in May was the first to compare the experiences of young carers in Britain, France, Sweden and Germany.

It reveals that children across Europe perform the most personal and intimate tasks for their parents or other members of their family, often without any support from welfare agencies. Many provide care at great personal expense and miss out on their childhood and friendships.

Based on interviews with more

than 100 young carers and professionals, it focuses on the hidden army of children and young people aged under 18 who care for their parents and relatives.

The report said young carers are forgotten or ignored by policy makers and service providers and calls on governments to assess their numbers and needs.

"Little attention has been given to protecting children from the negative consequences of long-term caring," said Dr Saul Becker, of Loughborough

University's Young Carers Research Group (YCRG), who helped write the report.

"Awareness raising strategies will need to be developed if young carers are to be identified as a cause for concern. It would be a tragedy if they continued to be deprived of their right to a secure childhood."

*Young Carers in Europe, £8.99, YCRG, Department of Social Services, Loughborough University, LE11 3TU.*

## Agreement lifts disabled people

The European Parliament and Council of Ministers have agreed that all new lifts should be accessible "subject to dimensions allowing".

This means new lifts will have to be accessible in new building and in older buildings where the lift shaft allows.

The news was welcomed by Labour's co-president of the European Parliament's Disability Intergroup, Richard Howitt, who has been pushing hard

for new rules on accessible lifts.

He said: "This is an important agreement which will help millions of people."

Meanwhile, Mr Howitt has condemned the Council of Europe's draft convention on bioethics because he claimed it "allows research on disabled people with little or no value to the person involved, and medical decisions, including organ transplants, without the consent of the disabled person".

### Debate in Dallas

Hearing impaired people from all over the world met at a conference in Dallas, America, in June to discuss a wide range of subjects including tinnitus and genetics.

The conference was organised by Self Help for the Hard of Hearing and opened by Miss America, Heather Whitestone, who is deaf.

### Rally around Europe

About 200 wheelchair users will take part in a 1,000-mile marathon from Paris to Santiago de Compostela in Spain from 17 August to 23 October.

Relay St James '95 will raise funds for the International Spinal Research Trust.

PO Box 356, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 9QF.

### Transport talks

An International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Disabled People will be held in Reading on 16-19 July.

It follows the 1995 Mobility Roadshow, at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory Crowthorne on 14 July.

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Tim Russell talks to globe-trotting driver Geoff Smith

# Travelling in a taxi

In a bungalow in the heart of the Buckinghamshire countryside, Geoff Smith munches on a sandwich and packs his last suitcase.

Geoff, 49, from Long Crendon, is preparing to set off on the adventure of a lifetime. He plans to write himself into *The Guinness Book of Records* by driving around the world in a converted taxi. The epic 50,000-mile journey will take him through 15 countries, including Russia, Egypt and Iran.

Geoff has chosen to drive a taxi because he was disabled by a London cab 30 years ago. "I was hit by one on the Edgware Road. The impact broke my spine and left me a wheelchair user. I bought a cab because it seemed an appropriate way to get round the world."

Geoff, a jovial, energetic man with a long white beard, feels happiest on the road. He has been globetrotting for 30 years, visiting 70 countries.

Mementos of his travels fill his living room. Cypriot statuettes stand next to relics from the ancient city of Troy. But pride of place goes to a collection of beer bottles from all over the world.

Geoff has been fascinated with travel since childhood. "I went to a school in Hertfordshire where I read all I could about the Crusades and dreamed of travelling to the Middle East."

Geoff had ambitions of becoming

He trained as a plumber but was sacked five years later and started hitchhiking. "I ran out of money in India but paid my way by teaching English and doing plumbing."

Soon after returning to Eng-

He trained to be a tv repairman but disliked the work and started testing transformers.

Made redundant in 1974, Geoff travelled to West Africa. More trips to Europe and Asia followed, but the latest adventure is his most ambitious so far.

"I don't know when I'll be back. It could be a year or maybe two. So many things can go wrong."

He has already had one false start. "I set off last week but only got as far as Worcester when the clutch packed in. It was frustrating, but it could have been worse. I might have been in Siberia."

He is used to mechanical mishaps. "I once hit a cow in Romania. It almost wrecked the cab. The police gave me a hard time. There had just been a revolution and they were very jumpy."

"I have also been deported from an African country for refusing to pay a bribe."

Geoff's limited budget means he often has to cook and sleep in his converted cab. "It's a bit basic but at least I have a radio/cassette player, given to me by a Jordanian princess."

He will be accompanied by his Russian navigator Lyudmila

Murygina and is sponsored by a number of firms, including Sunrise Medical and Aeroflot.

He aims to raise £30,000 for the Mobility Information Service, the International Spinal Injuries Unit and the Spinal Injuries Association.

Geoff has been unemployed for five years and feels frustrated about the discrimination he and other disabled job-seekers face.

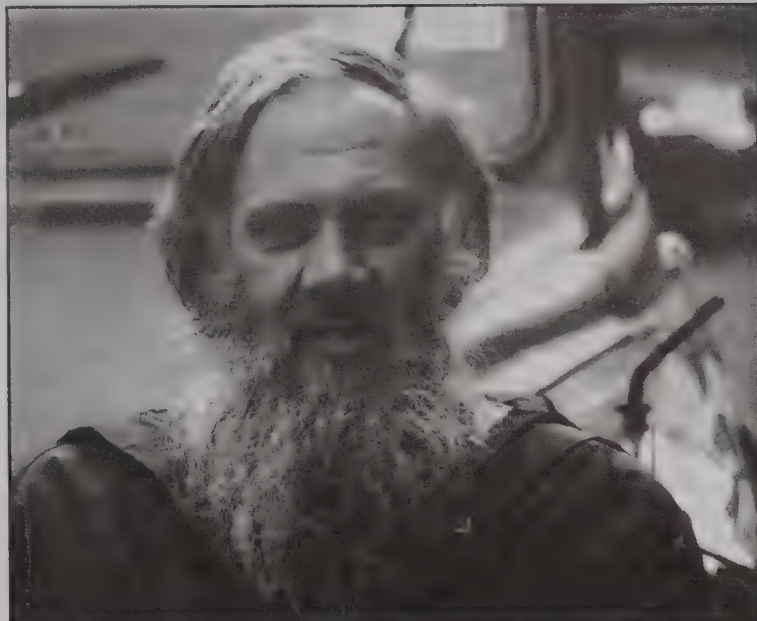
"Firms always choose an able-

**'You never finish with travelling. There is always another country to see and more people to meet'**

bodied candidate ahead of me. They feel it costs too much to employ a wheelchair user."

He refuses to get downhearted, however, and spends a lot of time planning his trips.

"You never finish with travelling. There is always another country to see and more people to meet. I hope my efforts will encourage other disabled people to travel the world."



Driving ambition: Geoff is aiming for a place in the record books

ing a teacher but these were ruined when he was forced to leave school at 15. "My father died, so I had to go out and work to support the family."

land, Geoff had his accident. "I spent nearly two years in Stoke Mandeville. It was difficult to adjust to being disabled and the rehabilitation was tough."

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A new guide that promises to make choosing a car easier for elderly and disabled drivers will be launched on 14 July.

The *Ability Car Guide*, researched and published by the independent charity Research Institute for Consumer Affairs (RICA), is a 16-page folder with three factsheets selected by the driver.

So far there are factsheets on 40 hatchbacks. Saloons, estates and people carriers will follow, with 120 models costing up to £15,000 covered by the year's end.

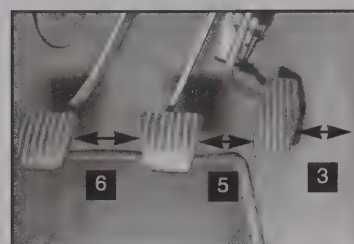
Each factsheet gives comprehensive information about one car. Detailed photos of seats, controls, door catches, and so on, plus diagrams, come with a host of key measurements.

The factsheet also summarises the main features that make the car easy or difficult to use. It gives prices, features, options, independent information on running costs and reliability.

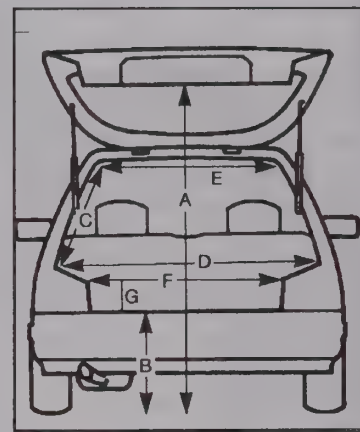
It tackles questions that people with different disabilities would ask – those who have difficulty gripping or bending, those with stiff legs or limited reach, and wheelchair users.

The folder covers the pros and cons of different ways of financing the car, including a comparison of Motability hire

# How to buy and run a car



Detailed information: the Vauxhall Corsa 5-door hatchback manual and automatic factsheet includes photos, diagrams and measurements



purchase with Motability contract hire. There is a checklist for second hand cars.

General information about insurance is supplemented by a unique survey showing quotes for people with different disabilities – and how some companies are discriminating against disabled drivers (see *right and page 1*). Readers are advised to bear in mind options offered by insurers and “shop around” for what’s best for them.

There is a comparison of seven breakdown services, information on hiring a car, learning to drive, service station facilities and security.

The Orange Badge scheme is explained, and different car adaptations. Finally, there is a list of independent mobility centres and helpful organisations.

*The guide costs £5 (inc p&p) with your choice of 3 factsheets. Extra factsheets, £1.25. Contact RICA's Ability Car Team, tel: (01992) 822820.*

## Where to go for insurance – or not

### No load companies

Eagle Star Direct  
General Accident Direct  
Co-operative  
Eagle Star  
General Accident  
ITT London and Edinburgh  
NIG Skandia  
Norwich Union  
Prudential  
Renown  
St Paul  
Summit  
(NB the brokers Chartwell, MJ Fish, Sterling, Barclays and Unity Financial Services are also no-loaders.)

### Loading companies

(not necessarily on all four disabilities: arthritis, stroke, paraplegia, MS)  
ALS up to 25%  
Bishopsgate up to 35%  
Bradford Pennine up to 20%  
Gan Minster up to 35%  
Independent up to 25%

Legal & General up to 50%  
Norman up to 15%  
Paramount up to 25%  
Royal up to 15 %  
Sun Alliance up to 15%  
(Broker: Leeds BS up to 15%)

### No insurance: stroke

Insurance Service  
ALS  
AXA  
British Standard  
Corinthian  
East West  
Ensign  
Federation General  
Guardian  
Norman  
Orion  
Wren  
(Broker Clydesdale Bank)

### No insurance: paraplegia

Insurance Service  
AXA  
British Standard  
Corinthian

Dominion  
East West  
Ensign  
Federation General  
Norman  
Orion  
Paramount  
Pegasus  
Wren

### No insurance: MS

Churchill  
Insurance Service  
AXA  
British Standard  
Corinthian  
Cornhill  
Drake  
East West  
Federation General  
Guardian  
Norman  
Orion  
Sun Alliance  
Torch  
Wren  
Zurich Municipal



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### What the experts say

Banstead Mobility Centre director Morigue Cornwell said: “The guide is very helpful as a first sift. There’s all sorts of information. But I hope very much people will still try out a car. There’s only one way to know – have a go.”

She thought there were “rather a lot of measurements,” but admitted people’s needs do vary.

She wished the guide cost less to ensure it reaches many people.

David Griffiths of the Mobility Information Service, Shrewsbury, praised the overall idea, and the look of the folder.

He found some “fundamental” flaws: no measurement for the gap between the bottom of the steering wheel and the seat base (“essential for half the drivers”) and no measurement for the distance between the seat base and the point at which you can see ahead clearly. He also thought justice had not been done to 100 specialist driving instructors, and the mustard colour made reading measurements hard.

But the insurance survey is “something we’ve wanted for a long time” and the second hand car section is “very good” too.

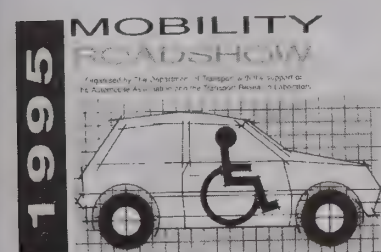


# East meets West behind the wheel

DN's motoring correspondent, David Griffiths, provides a sneak preview of some of the attractions at this year's Mobility Roadshow

The Queen will officially open the 1995 Mobility Roadshow at the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Crowthorne, Berkshire on Friday 14 July. It promises to offer the finest selection of vehicles, wheelchairs and mobility specialists in the world.

The three-day event is a must for all disabled people who consider mobility and



independence to be important (and show me those who do not). For drivers with a disability, it offers a unique opportunity to drive a selection of adapted vehicles, enabling comparisons to be made. You can find out which vehicle or adaption really suits you best.

## Fitted with hand controls

Helping to take the gamble out of vehicle choice are Fiat (the Punto's keen on access), Hyundai, Nissan, Peugeot Talbot, Proton, Renault (watch for the superb Laguna Estate) Rover, Toyota/Lexus, Vauxhall and Volvo, who will have a range of models available fitted with hand controls and other adaptations from various suppliers.

Of special interest to many will be Daewoo with their Nexia. A first-time chance for many, including myself, to try one out. (Remember, you must have a driving licence with you in order to take a test drive).

Specialist vehicle providers

- Opening times: 10am-6pm, 14-16 July.
- Free admission and parking.
- Getting there: adapted bus shuttle service. For details of locations, call number below.
- By road: need a route? Phone RAMP, tel: (01743) 761181. Allow two weeks for your personal route to arrive.
- For further information contact Sally Dunford, tel: (01344) 770463.

include Alfred Bekker, who is now offering drive-from-the-wheelchair conversions on transits and USA-originated Voyagers, in addition to being possibly Europe's largest manufacturer of hand controls.

KC Mobility Services, with their adapted "Case" Digger which featured prominently on the BBC's *Top Gear*, will also be present. KC have more interesting variants on show too – a manual gearshift transit adapted for disabled drivers and a Peugeot 205GTi, plus two for those who like to leave the tarmac – a Project 4 x 4 automatic Landrover and a left-hand-drive Jeep Wrangler.

## Wheelchair drivers

From Steering Developments comes the first showing of a drive-from-wheelchair conversion on a Volkswagen Caravelle using a Balder powerchair.

Although more expensive than conversions on a Ford Transit, the base vehicle is considerably more refined, and undercuts the Chrysler Voyager, as well as offering better servicing potential and lower running costs. For fresh-air fiends, it is featuring a BMW Convertible fitted with four-way joystick controls.

Universal Mobility will be showing its answer to the transit driver height problem – a deepened windscreen, while Interbility has their independent day-vans on Renault and Ford bases.

## Adapted taxis

There is a huge section devoted to motorhomes, minibuses and adapted taxis, and 47 different wheelchair manufacturers, suppliers and importers can be visited in tent number one, including Aldersley Power Chairs with their British-made Excel, capable of carrying 30 stones without qualm.

Tent one also houses a selection of companies offering insurance, the UK Forum of Assessment Centres (which includes all the Motability Approved Driver Assessment Units), the Disabled Drivers' Association, the Disabled Drivers' Motor Club and the

Disabled Motorists' Federation (DMF).

The DMF will be exhibiting their unique RAMP (Route Access Map Project) service for the first time. Then there are the main breakdown services and disability organisations.

Several publications have stands here too, including *DN*, (stand number 47).

## Russian rally drivers

Overseas visitors are a regular of the Mobility Roadshow. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of welcoming disabled people from Africa, Finland, USA, Canada and Asia to the Mobility Information Service stand.

This year a team of Russian disabled drivers will set out on 1 July from Moscow in seven adapted cars.

It will be the first time that Russian disabled drivers, or their vehicles, have ever been seen in Britain.

Their journey is one of great



At this year's show: Russian Disabled Driver Rally winners, Olga Vinogradova (left) and Evgeny Kiperband with their Lada Samara

courage, involving some 6,000 miles, many on appalling roads, in vehicles which many of us would hesitate to drive down to the shops in.

The Mobility Information Service stand will be absent this time, alas, but I can be found hovering between the stands of the Forum, *DN* and the Disabled Motorists' Federation.

I hope you will come to join me in welcoming these very

courageous, wonderful people who have sunk their life savings into a venture that will let them see at first hand what the Western world has to offer those with mobility problems.

The *DN* team will be on stand 47 handing out free copies of the July issue and hoping to meet readers. So come along and bring your friends.

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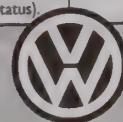
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# SIMPLY THE BEST

Model	type	engine	price
<b>Renault 'Eco'</b>	Diesel	1.9 Ltr	<b>£11,292</b>

PASSENGER AREA LENGTH 1550MM (61IN)

INTERIOR HEADROOM  
1420MM (56IN)ACCESS HEIGHT  
1420MM (56IN)

Model	type	engine	price
<b>Ford 'Combi'</b>	Diesel	1.8 Ltr	<b>£13,299</b>

PASSENGER AREA LENGTH 1500MM (59IN)

INTERIOR HEADROOM 1550MM (61IN)

ACCESS HEIGHT  
1500MM (59IN)

## Nissan Serena

type	engine	price
Petrol/Diesel	1.6/2.3 Ltr	<b>£18,958</b>

INTERIOR HEADROOM  
1370MM (54IN)

ACCESS HEIGHT 1300MM (51IN)

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# Working together to find the right vehicle

## and now we have it !

### Working with Volkswagen

Many people are well aware of the popularity of the hugely successful Nissan Prairie conversion, carried out by Brotherwood Automobility Ltd over the past 10 years.

Over this period there has been an intense research programme to find a worthy successor.

Making its debut at the Department of Transport Mobility Road Show, this year will be the patented prototype of the New Volkswagen Sharan conversion.

Rod Brotherwood has spent the past 10 months working in close collaboration with Volkswagen to secure advanced information of this exciting New vehicle. Which they are confident, will bring back the ethos of the Prairie - *"A car for the disabled passenger that turns peoples heads for the right reasons"*.

Working with the team back at the factory has resulted in many new ideas, to be incorporated with well proven designs which will become the key elements for the success of the Sharan.

Subject to availability the aim is to commence deliveries in October 1995 leading to the production of the full range of Sharan options. (As and when all engine variations come on line).

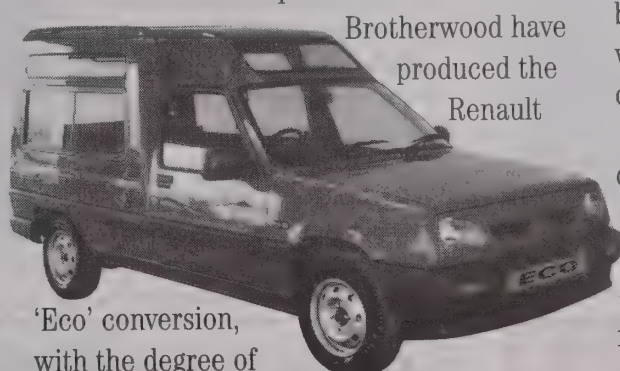


Engine and transmission choices will be either 2.0 litre petrol manual or automatic, 2.8 V6 petrol manual and automatic. A 1.9 turbo diesel with manual gearbox with automatic planned for 1996.

### Working towards better value

There is a great deal of work done in terms of research and development, which can take many months before Brotherwood Automobility Limited brings any New conversion to the customer.

With close co-operation from Renault.

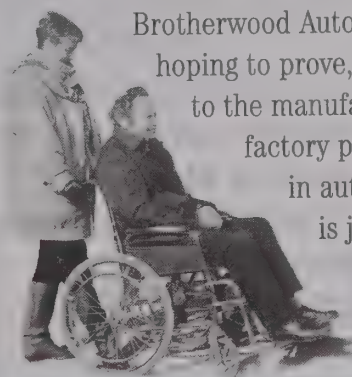


Brotherwood have produced the Renault 'Eco' conversion, with the degree of quality engineering equal to peoples' expectation from a main manufacturer.

Brotherwoods aim is to build into a car of this class all their experience, quality and back-up service at a price that fits in at the lower end of this range of converted vehicles.

Now having spent the past 12 months working on the Renault 'Eco', with in depth negotiations with the manufacturer, an automatic version is being offered.

It will probably be one of the best low priced, fully converted wheelchair accessible vehicles on offer and Brotherwood Automobility are hoping to prove, by demand to the manufacturer that factory production in automatics is justified.



### Working towards more room

The New Nissan "Cargo" offers the opportunity for the company to extend the versatility of the already highly popular Nissan Serena conversion.

The Cargo Vanette has provided a base for Brotherwood to create a wheelchair passenger transport of cavernous proportions.

With the best features of the Serena design, including Brotherwoods own unique built-in counter balanced ramp, which still folds in two, (out of the way behind the door when not in use), giving a maximum flat floor length of 84".

The rear entry provides straight forward and easy access with a height of 57" and internal headroom of 60".

This should cater for the tallest of wheelchair passengers and also offers the potential for even a wheeled stretcher, in a vehicle only 6" longer than the Serena.



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# Letters to the Editor



Disability**NOW**, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

## Give us a hearing

I have been receiving *DN* for awhile and find the news and updates of vital interest.

I would, however, like to ask why there is a dearth of deaf/hearing-impaired input in your magazine. All we seem to read is a sporadic and "official" face of "deaf" organisations, mainly from those with a linguistic bent.

The linguistic deaf have *carte blanche* to offer views on all people with a hearing loss. They give an impression of representation they can't substantiate, and a false impression of hearing-loss and its effects on others.

*DN* doesn't know "deaf" from "deaf/hearing-impaired". It reported the election of sign users to other bodies but neglected to put the other side of the coin, when grassroots deaf/hearing impaired voiced reservations, especially in the case of the British Deaf Association, where democracy did not take place at all.

Insisting on a sign user isn't democratic – though I accept the RNID did show balance.

Some deaf/hearing impaired people get much discrimination

from within, and there is a very blinkered attitude to reporting this by disability periodicals.

It is of vital importance in the rights campaigns and the disability movement to understand that of the 6.5 million with a hearing loss in the UK, less than 3 per cent actually claim linguistic status or use manual language.

Specialised magazines for the "deaf" are almost totally exclusive to that sector, leaving the hard of hearing, the deafened, those with acquired deafness who are truly disabled, with no forum to put a view. There is one exception: Chas Donaldson's *Write Hear* via Teletext 713.

Can integration take place if the disability movement fears to upset minority groups?

**Mervyn James**  
(profoundly deaf person)  
Bishton,  
Newport, Gwent

*DN has no intention of ignoring the views of any part of the disability community. DN's minicom number is 0171-436 9914 – Editor.*

## Not so overwhelmed

"The evidence for respite care is overwhelming" claims an article in *DN*'s April edition.

If this is the case, how come not a single democratic and accountable organisation of disabled people anywhere in the world is demanding such a service?

I have been disabled for 32 years and have spent the last 20 years of my life as a professional researcher asking disabled people about services.

Never in that time have I met a single disabled person who wanted, or happily entered, respite care.

Perhaps the evidence is overwhelming that non-disabled people think respite care is the kind of service we ought to get rather than one we really want or know we need.

**Michael Oliver**  
Professor of Disability Studies  
The University of Greenwich  
London SE9

## Radio hams unite

My friend, Peter Odell and I both found the article on amateur radio (*DN March*) most interesting.

We are licensed radio amateurs – in my case call sign GM3AKM (able bodied but aging) and in Peter's case GM3MUM (severely disabled).

Peter is perhaps the best known disabled radio amateur in the UK and certainly one of the first to obtain a licence. He uses his big toe to operate every piece of equipment, including his Possum, computer, etc.

There are now many disabled and blind radio amateurs around the world and, as the article implied, radio communication is a great therapeutic hobby for those who cannot get about.

The Radio Amateur Invalid & Blind Club does a fine job in organising and keeping members in touch and

arranging events. They publish a magazine, *Radial*, and there is a helpline too. Contact Margery Key, tel: (01953) 454920. **Richard Richardson** Edinburgh

## Disgusted

With reference to the advert in the classified section (*DN April*), I am deeply disgusted that anyone is allowed to advertise so openly just to satisfy his sexual desires.

No wonder this country is so morally low, when people are allowed to advertise in this way.

I hope other decent minded people will agree with me.

*DN* is such a good, informative paper, which I have taken for years.

**Dorothy Price**  
Northwich, Cheshire

## Brownie points

One of us is a full-time wheelchair user and we have a very active four-year-old son. We heartily commend some extremely well-adapted, self-catering holiday accommodation, where every effort is made by the owners: St Peter's View, Monk Soham Hall (owners Gay and Geoff Clarke), Framlingham, Suffolk, IP13 7EN, tel: (01728) 685358; and Le Fosso, Gomene, 22230 Medrignac, Brittany (owners Hilary and Michael Townsend), tel: 00 33 28 47 97.

**Ruth and Martin Tomiak**  
Northampton

We have just had an excellent bed and breakfast holiday at the Neville Arms, Abbeydore, Hereford, tel: (01981) 240319, which is near a lovely market town and superb countryside, with lots of local events.

The accommodation adjoins the inn, which does reasonably priced evening meals and packed lunches. Very good, home cooking. Proprietors Fred and Wendy Savage were very helpful.

There is an *en suite* roll-in shower facility and toilet.

**Ruby Lawrence**  
Wokingham, Berks

## Sic

### Benefit cuts

Thanks to *DN* reader James Straughan of Devon for this cutting from his local paper.

"Announcement from the Winchester Cats Protection League: 'We run a subsidised neutering scheme for people on low incomes.'"

### Dog days

More on animals. Dismay all round: Ivan the overweight guide dog has lost his job. At 100lb, he was too fat and so unsafe for work, said the charity Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. David Harding, 72, will have to use a white cane now, until the matter is sorted out. Who would you support? Cuddly, faithful Ivan and Mr Harding? Or the charity, who's in a "no-win" situation, and trying to provide the best service?

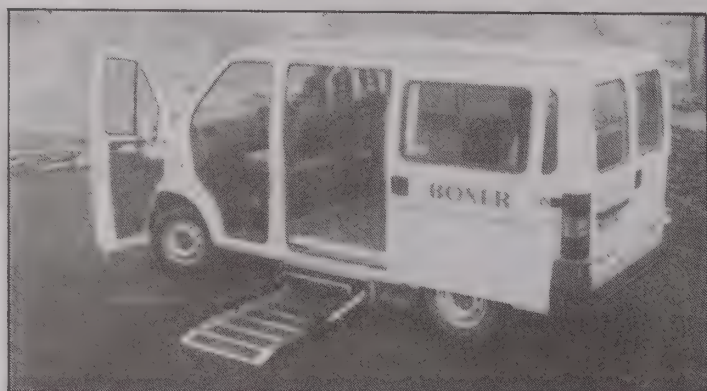
### Feeling skittish

Jeremy Beadle has done it again. In *Beadle's About*, able-bodied actors portraying deaf and blind people "set up" a temporary worker in a hearing aid shop. Doug Alker of the RNID said it made deaf people look stupid. London Weekend Television said it was "a comedy burlesque".

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More options are available for wheelchair access on the new Peugeot Boxer, including underfloor electro-hydraulic lifts to the side or rear. Hydraulic lowering rear suspension with fold-away ramp. Passenger headroom is 60" on the standard roof and 72" on the high roof. Removable seats giving you more seating and wheelchair positions. Disabled driver options for full independence.

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**David Ruebain is a disabled Solicitor specialising in Education, Community Care and Local Government Law. He is committed to the Disability Movement and is involved in the campaign for Civil Rights Legislation for Disabled People.**

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A trip down memory lane: Cynthia relaxes in the Alzheimer's Disease Society's memory garden

If we had been expecting a relaxing, crowd-free day out at the 1995 Chelsea Flower Show, we were in for a shock. Despite being press day, the show was packed. Cynthia had to keep her wits about her to avoid being run over by hoards of lorries, cameras and celebrity-hungry journalists.

In the Great Marquee, the scent of flowers was overwhelming. As was the aroma from Ken Muir's display of strawberry plants –

# Bloom

Poor access turned a day course for Cynthia Fairbrother

if you could get to it.

Cynthia had to get out of her wheelchair and push it over the gravel and grass marquee floor. "Disabled people would have great problems getting to see this. If I couldn't get out of my chair to push it I'd be stuck," she said, unimpressed.

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Room at the top: the writer's garden office workplace. The tree-house/office contains everything a writer could possibly need

We met a wheelchair user who was also having problems. "This gravel is hopeless," she complained.

The John Grooms Association exhibit focused on training and employment for young people with disabilities.



Help the Aged showed how sheltered housing



# ing hard work

at this year's Chelsea Flower Show into an exhausting obstacle  
a wheelchair user. Martha Robinson was there with her.

gricultural Opportunities for  
Employment) provides  
al training for 15 trainees and  
a commercial nursery.  
he sun was blazing in the  
an Police's theft garden. Signs  
tips on how to stop garden thieves  
red across the lawn. Cynthia was  
with the advice, particularly the

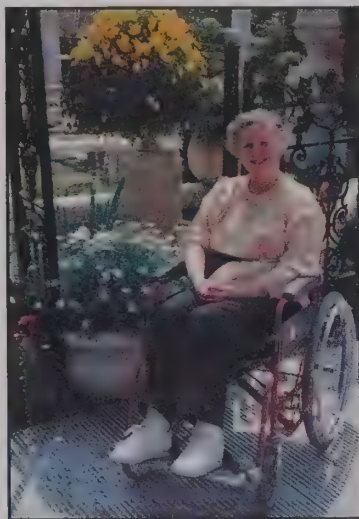


how a garden can be used as a  
desk, word processor and  
from a stairlift). MARTHA ROBINSON

ng prickly plants to deter burglars.  
na Forest and Garden's robotic  
er was a hit. Powered by the sun, it  
of its own, as one television  
discovered when it nibbled her  
ynthia thought the mower was  
love one to do all the work for me."  
erful smell of flowers and herbs



can be transformed by a garden



Cynthia enjoys one of the few  
easily accessible walkways

drew Cynthia to the Crabtree  
& Evelyn garden. But the  
raised kerb at the entrance  
prevented her from going in.  
"For people with disabilities  
this is hopeless."

It was a similar story at the  
window boxes and hanging  
baskets exhibit. "This is so  
frustrating. These are the sort of  
things disabled gardeners can  
manage, but I can't see them."

Cynthia decided to take out  
her frustration on a cup of tea  
and a blueberry muffin. We  
went to the west buffet after  
discovering that the restaurant  
could only be reached via stairs.  
The buffet did have a ramp at its  
entrance, but it was very steep.  
"If I didn't have someone to



Designer garden: specialist  
firm Peter Tinsley's landscape

push me up this ramp I  
wouldn't be able to get in here."

Recharged by her mid-  
morning snack, Cynthia  
headed towards the Imperial  
War Museum's victory garden  
(top right). The garden marked  
the fiftieth anniversary of the  
end of the Second World War  
and contained a "dig for  
victory" vegetable plot,  
Anderson shelter and the new  
"Reconciliation" rose bred for  
the VE Day anniversary.

We escaped from the crowds  
to relax in the Alzheimer's  
Disease Society's garden of  
memories (top left). "This  
garden smells beautiful," said  
Cynthia, impressed.

There was a lack of scent in  
the Action for Blind People's  
pleasure garden. Unlike  
previous years, the exhibit did  
not focus on smell, but on  
texture and colour. It only  
contained green and yellow  
plants, as yellow is the most  
vivid colour for visually  
impaired people and the last  
colour seen before becoming  
blind. The garden also had  
tactile plants and statues and  
an accessible garden house.

Help the Aged's cottage  
garden aimed to show how  
sheltered housing can be  
transformed by an attractive  
garden (bottom centre).

Julia Shipston, from Help the  
Aged, agreed that access was  
poor. "Many of the exhibits  
seem to be raised this year."

Show organiser, Ruth Anders,  
explained why there were no



The VE garden complete with Anderson shelter and vegetable plot

ramps at the garden entrances:  
"They would stick so far out  
into the road that they would be  
a hazard to people who are  
walking. We realise the  
showground is not an ideal site.  
and are open to any suggestions  
which may improve things."

After four hours of getting in  
and out of her chair, Cynthia

had had enough. "The show  
itself is beautiful. But I'm  
disappointed that no effort has  
been made in terms of access. It  
could have been improved with  
very little expense. Temporary  
ramps would make life a lot  
easier at the garden entrances as  
would metal or rubber matting  
over gravel areas."

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# Highs and lows of hot air

Fancy floating beneath a giant, coloured bubble? Try ballooning, writes John Christopher

A balloon flight is like no other form of flying. First there is the colour and spectacle of putting the balloon together, then inflating the billowing envelope, initially with a huge cold-air fan, and then the roar of the powerful burners.

The take-off and the flight itself are usually much gentler than most people expect. Before long you will be drifting at the mercy of the wind at 2,000 ft, above familiar towns and villages, or over the ever changing counterpane of fields and woods that is our lovely countryside.

Once you have seen the world from a balloon, it will never seem the same again. Most balloon flights last about an hour, but the whole outing can be up to three or four hours.

While balloon operators advise passengers on what to wear, the general rule is sensible outdoor clothes and nothing precious, as it can get a little mucky sometimes.

Remember to take plenty of film for your camera, as there is so much to see, even if you are just following with the retrieve team on the ground.

For the casual aeronaut, there are now more than 100 companies dotted around the country offering pleasure flights, and many disabled people go ballooning every year.



Doing the burn: inflating the billowing envelope using powerful burners makes ballooning like no other form of flying IAN BENTLEY

But it is not all roses. Some operators are reluctant to take on disabled passengers. This can be for a number of reasons. It could be prejudice (more often than not the prejudice of other passengers) or worries about insurance.

Most of the time though, the

concerns are about safety. In ballooning, safety comes first, second and third every time.

It is a physical activity, with occasionally more than its share of bumps and hard knocks, making some operators reluctant to take on severely disabled or less agile passengers.

But do not despair. Most operators will be positive, and any operator worth his or her salt, when accepting a booking from a disabled person, will take care to choose an occasion when the wind speeds are light and the landing will be

correspondingly gentle.

There are also operators with specially equipped balloons. Ian Bentley of Innovation Balloons flies in the Bath and Birmingham areas.

Ian's balloon has a basket fitted with a flap on one side that folds down to form a ramp for access.

Open weave windows in the wicker sides give a better view from the sitting position, and securing clamps for the chair and a harness keep you in place.

The balloon carries one wheelchair user and three standing passengers. Ian says this makes it ideal for a family to share the experience.

"It is the safest way to fly. There is nothing like it.

"You just drift across the country and land in fields. It is really good fun."

I have been flying passengers commercially for many years, both able-bodied (including a lady of 93) and disabled, even though my company, Skylark Balloons, does not have facilities for wheelchair users.

Memorable passengers include a young lad with cerebral palsy, and a blind lady and her sighted companion, who enjoyed the sensations and experience enormously.

Whether you feel you can take part in a balloon flight depends on several things. First, you need to be fit enough to climb into the basket, and once in it to stand for probably an hour or so and then get out at the other end.

As most conventional balloon baskets are about 4ft high, getting in and out can be a



Up, up and away: Innovation Balloons' accessible basket, with ramp, special seat and open weave windows gives a better view

Get out and about with **DN** this month and next, when we have the best in fun breaks to try over the summer holidays

• p22 – soar away in a hot air balloon

• p23 – live it up on the high seas

• p24 – have a flutter at York Races

problem for anyone less agile.

John Deans of Voyager Balloons in Norwich has taken a different approach with his balloon, known as a "Chariot".

Instead of a basket, this has a double seat, like a flying sofa.

"I wanted to be able to offer something for people who can't get into a basket," says John.

"To take people who live their life 3ft from the ground in their wheelchairs, put them in a seat

**Before long, you will be drifting at the mercy of the wind at 2,000ft, above familiar towns and villages**

alongside me, strap them in and then float off into the sky. It's exhilarating!"

To fly in John's Chariot you need to enrol in the club, which costs £30 and this includes an experience flight.

Ballooning can be enjoyed by a whole range of people, as Alec Jenkinson a formative figure and active pilot in the early days of British ballooning in the 1970s explains.

Alec, who has multiple sclerosis, still enjoys the occasional flight in one of the wheelchair baskets.

Some have hand-held burner controls so he can experience the pleasure of controlling the balloon in flight.

"For me it is perfect happiness to sit and fly the balloon so easily at less than 100ft above the empty fields," he says. "It all seems so familiar a routine, and hard to believe my licence lapsed years ago."

If you think ballooning is for you, the British Balloon and Airship Club (BBAC) has a free list of ballooning companies around the UK.

You never know, you too might find yourself in one of the flotillas of multi-coloured bubbles that can be seen in most parts of the country on any calm morning or evening.

Innovation Balloons, tel: (01761) 435955.

Voyager Balloons, tel: (01603) 629004.

Skylark Balloons, tel: (01453) 872170.

BBAC, tel: (01604) 870025.

There's a lot to discover about Lee Valley Park - like it's not really a park at all. More a treasure trove of things to do and fun to be had. Find out for yourself through Discovery '95, a series of events throughout the year where you can **come and try** what's on offer.

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DISCOVERY



# Shiver me timbers!

Calling all sea dogs. Many disabled people are taking to the high seas. Why not join them? Landlubber Martha Robinson tells you how

If a ride on a sight-seeing cruiser is the closest you have come to sailing, you are missing out. It is an exciting, challenging sport and a fun way to travel and make new friends.

Andy Cassall, now in his fifties, has been messing about in boats since he was young. Born with no legs, he left school at an early age, bought a boat and taught himself to sail.

Andy is now an experienced sailor with an impressive record. Last year he won the disabled sailing world championships. He plans to take part in the 1995 European championships in Spain in September.

"I love the competition and



Team work on a Sailability blind and deaf cruising weekend

meeting interesting people. I try to sail on equal terms with able-bodied people.

"Once disabled people realise they can sail on equal terms, sailing becomes a reality instead of a dream."

You don't have to be a world champion like Andy to enjoy sailing. According to Marsha Corpar, "there are loads of things to do".

Marsha is blind. She started sailing seven years ago with a Devon sailing club that ran dinghy sailing groups for visually impaired sailors. "I still do dinghy sailing. I love it. I like the feeling of being on my own in a boat, being in charge and making my own decisions."

After contacting the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Seamanship Foundation, Marsha discovered bigger boats. The foundation offers sailing advice and information and co-ordinates events and regattas in the UK.

Last year Marsha sailed to the Scilly Isles on a cruising trip for visually impaired people arranged by Sailability. Sailability also offers sailing advice and runs events for people with disabilities.

Marsha had a great time on

the trip. "Cruising is a really sociable form of sailing. It's relaxed, you're on holiday and you're going somewhere."

She learnt about racing with Welsh sailing group Plasmenal. Marsha also went on the group's sea survival course. "That was great. It was the first chance I got to do something with people with other disabilities."

She loves the excitement racing offers. "It allows you to be on the edge of danger. As a disabled person you are never allowed to go to the edge, people are always saying 'Be careful, mind you don't hurt yourself'."

Marsha competed in the 1992 world blind championships in New Zealand and plans to take part in the selection trials for the 1997 championship in the UK.

What advice does she give to beginners? "Start with dinghy sailing. I am glad I started in dinghys. You are close to the water and wind. Once you have got used to that, you can progress to cruisers." She runs a small dinghy sailing club for disabled people in west Kirby, Wirral.

Marsha also suggests contacting Sailability for information and advice. A view echoed by Geoff Halt: "They can tell you where your local group is and give information on events

such as free sailing weekends."

Geoff, who is 29 and a wheelchair user, was a professional yachtsman in the West Indies until he was 18.

## Unable to capsize

After breaking his neck in an accident he moved to Britain. A friend convinced him to try sailing in a Challenger dinghy.

The dinghy is specially designed for people with disabilities. Its trimaran design means it cannot overturn.

Three years ago, Geoff was the first disabled person to sail on his own around the Isle of Wight in his Challenger dinghy.

"I'm a great believer in breaking down barriers through sport and starting as early as possible.

"The Debdale sailing centre in Manchester teaches disabled and able bodied kids to sail at the same time. These kids will be tomorrow's legislators and will have a greater understanding of each other."

Ian Harrison, Sailability, tel: (0116) 2677138.

RYA Seamanship Foundation, tel: (01703) 627400.

Plasmenal, tel: (01244) 822600.

Marsha Corpar, tel: 0151-632 2396.

Debdale sailing centre, tel: 0161-223 5182.



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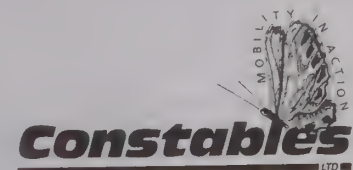


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# A flutter on the gee-gees

Nancy Royle and husband Warwick, a wheelchair user, tried their luck at York Races



Warwick Royle takes advantage of thoughtfully designed wheelchair facilities

NANCY ROYLE

The Ebor Meeting at York Racecourse is the Ascot of the North. It's a real dressing up occasion – collar and tie for gentlemen, hats for the ladies.

We arrived early to make sure of a good place in the parking spot for disabled drivers, close to the entrance.

Showers were forecast, but we sat in the sun for an early lunch from the seafood bar. The paved

area was not accessible so we choose a seat on the lawn.

The coffee and champagne bar selling hot beef sandwiches was accessible, and so were the various other restaurants and cafeterias by the lift in the main stand. Catering vans also tempted, with succulent roast pork butties, fish and chips, hot dogs and ice cream.

Whether you chose the

Members' Enclosure (£30) or Tattersalls (£13), there were ramped, elevated stands for wheelchair users, giving an extensive view of the racecourse and positioned directly opposite the winning post. A viewing stand at the parade ring enabled Warwick to see the horses as they were led around before each race.

Part of the fun was to watch

the build up. The red coated "Tote" ladies arrived and entered their booths, where you could place your bets.

The "tic tac" bookies set up their stands of boxes and suitcases, emblazoned placards and huge umbrellas to shelter from the sun or rain.

Families arrived carting picnic bags and folding chairs past the courtesy tents of bright red and white striped canvas.

Tiers of scarlet geraniums decked the Winner's Enclosure. Goblets and rose bowls were displayed, glass cased, waiting for the proud winner.

## Hats fantastic

Then came the ladies, hatted and elegant, or fun-styled for a carefree day. A pink and white candy-floss outfit, topped by a cartwheel-sized sugar plum cake of a hat passed by.

The sun shone and we studied the race card – "Allegsand-nobrain". It took me a while to work out what it was. I changed my mind at the last minute and decided to have a flutter on the jockey wearing the brightest red.

"Husband and Mate?" said the expert in disbelief. Yes, just the brightest red. But who's pockets were jingling at the end of the day? Not his!

The next day we planned to walk from our hotel to the racecourse, as it was so near. Would I be as lucky again, I wondered?

*Ebor meeting dates are 15, 16, 17 August. Tel: (01904) 620911. Peter Greaves has compiled a Disabled Racegoers Guide, £2.50, in aid of the Spinal Injuries Association, tel: (01273) 722257.*

## What's on in July

*Cheltenham International Festival of Music, 1-16 July. Tel: (01242) 521621.*

*World War II Victory Exhibition, Glasgow Vennel Museum, Irvine, 17 July-26 August. Tel: (01294) 275059. Holiday activities for young people, Carew Castle, Dyfed, 24-28 July. Tel: (01646) 651782.*

*Festival of Retirement, Tredegar House and Park, Newport, Gwent, 30 July. Tel: (0117) 9775560.*

## National Trust Centenary

*Children's Fun Day, The Argory, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, 28 July. Tel: (01868) 784753.*

*Alchemy exhibition of sculpture, Ickworth House, Bury St Edmunds. Tel: (01284) 735270. Visually impaired visitors may touch all the exhibits.*

*The Whiz-kidz Super Circuit wheelchair obstacle course (below) is designed to help able-bodied children and teenagers experience some of the difficulties wheelchair users encounter in their everyday lives. It will be at*



*Drusillas Zoo Park in east Sussex for most of the summer with the exception of the following dates in London: 11 June Battersea Park, 14-16 July Mini Games at Crystal Palace, 24-25 July Royal Albert Docks Regatta. Telephone Helen Grace on 0171-233 6600.*

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# No right to a communication aid

(2) Sarah Barnett got a shock when she interviewed 30 young disabled adults about their communication needs

For young disabled people who find speaking difficult, a communication aid is an essential tool for living.

In theory they have a big choice – from symbol systems, through signing to many different kinds of electronic aid.

In practice, as I found when doing research on the subject last year, young disabled people have no right to a communication aid. There is also such ignorance about what communication means that the desperate need for aids goes unrecognised.

I found a lot of ignorance about speech and language therapy, communication systems and communication aid centres.

Speech and language therapy post-19 are virtually non-existent for people with physical disabilities. The few therapists I did meet were grossly overburdened with clients who had multiple needs.

Communicating with 30 disabled young adults turned out to be much more difficult than I anticipated because most of them had no adequate communication system.

Here are some of the people I met. The problems they face are fairly typical.

## Ray and Elaine: stuck

Ray Prescod and Elaine Jones, both in their early 30s and with severe cp, have their own purpose-built flats in complexes run by SHAD (Support and Housing Assistance for People with Disabilities) in Wandsworth, south London. Each has three volunteers on a 24-hour rota system.

Ray speaks with effort and to people who don't know him, he is unintelligible. He finds this frustrating and limiting. It can exclude him from contributing in SHAD user committee meetings. It is also very tiring.

Ray hates using the telephone. He says it is embarrassing. He must repeat himself several times before he is understood and he often has to abandon getting his message across and pretend it doesn't matter. He has grown accustomed to being misunderstood and patronised.

Speech therapy? Oh yes, years of it. (I wince: I am a speech therapist.)

The best thing about speech therapy, Ray remembers, was being given chocolate when he was "good". The worst was being given exercises for homework. His face clouds over. "I just couldn't do them."



What I could do with a phone – if I had the communication aid: Elaine Jones and Ray Prescod agree  
BRENT MOORE

Several years ago, at college, a speech therapist was interested in what equipment he could use to communicate with. He was offered a Cannon.

How useful was it? He smiled. "It is useful if you know how to spell, but it's no use if you can't."

Later he was given a VOCA (voice output communication aid) to try out for two weeks. He felt it might have been useful, had he known how to programme it to say what he wanted, and how to store things in its memory.

Ray would like speech therapy again now things have moved on. But he doesn't know where to go to get help. He wants a hi-tech aid that he could use on the phone, in committee meetings and when he has new volunteers.

Elaine thinks it would make her life easier too. Although her speech is laboured, it is more intelligible than Ray's.

The aid might also help in meetings, if they could pre-programme important points they want to make. "Sometimes

we need to respond quickly, but if it takes 10 minutes, then we've lost their attention."

Elaine is unable to pull or pick up things. She can press the button on the entry-phone to release the door catch for visitors to enter. But she cannot open the door herself.

Possum's electronic door mechanism (around £1,000) would solve the problem. She has been trying to get this for four years. If a fire occurs now, when a volunteer is out, Elaine would be trapped.

## Jane's 'appalling' chart

Jane (not her real name), 26, is an extrovert person who lives in a residential centre. She has cp and her speech is unintelligible.

When I phoned for an appointment, I was told she would be free on Thursday morning. When I suggested we should consult Jane, I was assured she would be free.

Jane has a communication chart which has not been updated since she was 11. It has the tattiness and coffee stains of 15 years.

I have seen some poorly designed communication charts in my time, but this is appalling: a vocabulary pool of 200 words (the average toddler has more); over a quarter of the chart has colour names, weather descriptions and time-words; another quarter has letters and numbers. There were names of teachers she left behind over a decade ago. The letters might have been some use if Jane had learned to spell.

As her friends in the centre cannot read or cannot see, she now needs a VOCA. Friends at college have them.

I asked about the possibility of Jane's needs being met. The centre manager told me there were no funds, and there was no need anyway because the staff knew what she wanted.

Isn't there more to life than communicating a need to go to the loo or stating a preference for coffee over tea? What of discussing worries about one's

parents' declining health, envy of your sister's marriage, sharing ideas and dreams? How do you negotiate your community care programme without a communication system?

## A generation apart

Jane and Ray are part of a generation who have missed out on developments in communication aids and a new awareness of how important functional communication is.

Perhaps the ignorance about communication aids is partly because there are very few role models (apart from Professor Stephen Hawking).

Anthony Robertson of Liberator, who uses communication aids himself, is trying to alter this by setting up a national network of user groups.

Communication Matters is the main UK organisation. Its conference at Lancaster University, 25-26 September, will include a programme of user workshops for the first time.

Anthony Robertson, Liberator, tel: (0800) 622 457

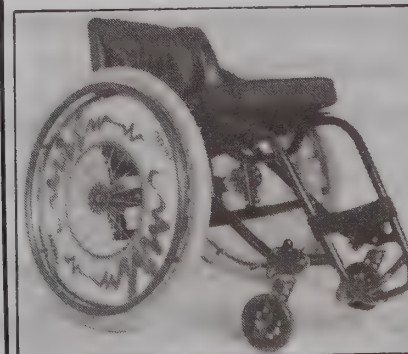
Communication Matters, including enquiries about communication aid centres, Caroline Gray, tel: (01865) 63508. They also publish *Communication Aids: A guide to manufacturers and suppliers*. For the conference, contact Mark Williams, (0181) 846 1057.

Sarah Barnett is a research speech and language therapist/psychologist in the Community Paediatric Research Unit of Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School.

Action 19 Plus conference on community care, see page 34.

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(10) Chiropractice can ease back pain, finds Nic Paton

# Spinal tapped

One day in 1895, Daniel David Palmer, an American healer, was visited in his surgery by his janitor, Harvey Lilliard.

Mr Lilliard had been deaf for 17 years. He had been exerting himself in a cramped, awkward position when he had heard something go crack in his neck.

Mr Palmer deduced that one of his vertebrae was out of alignment. He persuaded Mr Lilliard to try manipulation to correct the displacement. After adjustments on three consecutive days, his hearing returned.

This story of the start of modern-day chiropractice is anecdotal, but plausible enough, says chiropractor Chris Turner.

Spinal manipulation is described in ancient Chinese, Greek and Egyptian texts, and was practised in the Middle Ages. But it was Daniel Palmer who developed the contemporary philosophy.

One of his friends even invented the word, from "chiero", meaning hand, and "praktos", to move.

Similar to osteopathy in that it uses manipulation of the spine, chiropractice is different in its philosophy of the body, says Mr Turner.

"Palmer built up the principle of chiropractice on the basis that there is a life energy flow in the body, which he called the innate intelligence.

"By blocking that flow you will impede the energy and

have 'dis-ease'. By allowing the energy to flow again, you will sort the body out."

Mr Turner runs a private chiropractic and massage centre in Maidenhead. Most chiropractors have disabled clients, he says, because so many disabled people have back pain.

"Nobody is immune from back problems, be they blind, deaf or have cerebral palsy.

"If someone sits for too long, they are going to get wear and tear, regardless of whether they are paraplegic or tetraplegic. Sitting down increases pressure on discs, so they are bound to get lower back problems.

"We can mobilise the lower back, or work on their feet. Or we can work with mobilising the joints in the ankles and feet.

This year is the centenary of modern-day chiropractice. To celebrate, members of the BCA will be taking part in a mammoth sponsored walk to raise money for the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS). Hikers from chiropractic and NDCS centres around the country will cover 100,000 miles in a series of walks and "fun days" during July. An information pack is available from Luci Jago at the NDCS, tel: 0171-250 0123.



Chris Turner demonstrates a lumbar roll on Jim Sloan

NIC PATON

"People will also get problems with using a wheelchair all the time. We're not designed to walk with our hands. Also, people who are walking with frames or crutches will feel more stresses and strains.

"If we can get people moving properly again, we can get rid of those problems."

Jim Sloan, who has multiple

sclerosis, visits the clinic fortnightly for chiropractice and lymphatic massage.

## Initially sceptical

Jim was introduced to the clinic through his wife Marjorie, who had developed a bad back from lifting him. Though initially sceptical, he was pleasantly surprised at the

immediate results.

"It has definitely helped reduce swelling. I find it easier to stand up and sit down. I am more supple for longer.

"But you have to ask, why is something like this not available through the National Health Service? I have physiotherapy, but there is no treatment in between.

"Being more supple makes me more inclined to get up and down, and so to create my own physiotherapy."

Some chiropractors have contracts with the NHS through fund holders and NHS trusts, says Chris Turner, but most treatment is done privately.

He charges £30 for the first, half-hour, visit, then £23 per further treatment, normally a quarter of an hour. However, he allows longer for a disabled person if he or she has difficulty getting into the clinic, and is also prepared to adjust the fee if a person is in dire financial straits.

"I prefer my patients to have treatment rather than not. Also we can help train people in how their muscles work and give them exercises to do."

Chiropractors train for six years full time. In July last year Parliament gave the go-ahead for them to be registered in the same way as doctors, dentists and osteopaths.

They can be located through the British Chiropractic Association (BCA), but, warns Chris Turner, people should not expect miracles.

"If you have somebody with a major mechanical problem, you are not going to fix it. You cannot fix wear and tear, for the same reason that you cannot fix a spinal column



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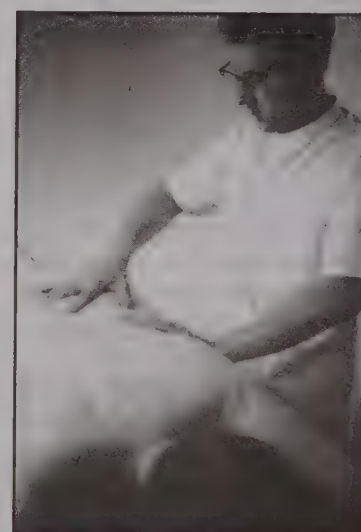
Prices start from £15,150.00 on the road excluding all taxes from which disabled users are exempt.

Contact Paul Cassidy, tel: 01704 506608, Fax: 01704 506607.

66 Knob Hall Lane, Southport PR9 9QS.



RECOGNISED CONVERTER



Jim uses lymphatic massage by masseur Peter Christa to complement the chiropractice

that has been severed.

"What you can do is relieve a lot of the symptoms, and that's the most important thing, making life more comfortable. It is the quality of life we are looking at."

Chris Turner, tel: (01628) 29236.

BCA, tel: (01734) 757557.



## Cinema

Michael Turner

Hollywood continues to recycle old ideas in several of this summer's new movies.

*The Brady Bunch Movie*

tries to breathe new life into the trend, but is ultimately a slight movie that plays strictly for laughs. Its premise is that this idealised family from the 1970s' tv series is alive and well in 1990s' Los Angeles, complete with flared trousers, flowery shirts, "hip and groovy" language and a "whiter than white" morality.

The Brady's moral perfection is reflected in their physical perfection. It even has healing powers in the Brady universe.

When Marsha, the eldest daughter, has her nose flattened by a football, it seems to be restored by virtue of her



## The Brady Bunch Movie



Brady Bunch: Jan's (second from left) "voices" do little for our understanding of mental health issues

refusing the advances of her date at the school prom.

More seriously, the portrayal of middle daughter Jan, whose frustration at living in the shadow of Marsha's good looks leads her to hear "voices in her head", will do little for our understanding of mental health issues.

The film is very funny in places, but the joke does wear thin. It could have given more comment on 20 years of change,

perhaps in the way that *Addams Family Values* satirised conformity in 1990s' America.

*Batman Forever* (opens 14 July) does not show the faintest sign of originality with its latest villain to take on the Caped Crusader. "Two-Face", played by Tommy Lee Jones, is an ex-lawyer disfigured in a courtroom who sets out for vengeance against Gotham City.

The shame of it is that, while the film makers continue to

pump out these old stereotypes and predictable story lines, the public continues to lap them up.

A more interesting drama is *Silent Fall* (now on general release) in which Tim, a nine-year-old boy with autism, witnesses the murder of his parents. Rather than the old good cop/bad cop routine, Tim faces a good psychologist/bad psychologist act as the authorities try to get his story.

## Television

Chris Davies

When subjects truly important to our community break out of the margins of television, it is cause for optimism. So it

was a noteworthy event when the BBC's Disability Programmes Unit at last broke through into peak-time BBC1 scheduling.

The subject of the three-part series *The Invisible Wall*, which began on 7 June, is discrimination on the grounds of disability. The programme used hidden cameras to produce evidence that disabled people are actually discriminated against.

Since this was probably the first chance that most of the audience may have had to appreciate the subject, I tried to view the programme as they might.

Looked at from a non-disabled perspective, the first programme might be seen to be a succession of complaints by disabled people. Yes, of course, there is plenty to complain about and no punches need to be pulled.

But, surely, an explanation as to what is wrong and what can be put right would have lightened the impression that all we can do is nag?

If *The Invisible Wall* achieves a sizeable audience and persuades most of those who watch that our opinions are valid, then I will be the first to eat my hat.

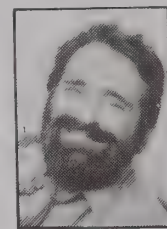
My fear is that the converted watched, the non-converted did not, and the undecided remained so, not staying with us after initially giving us the benefit of the doubt.

This is a well-made series truly deserving its slot. But if its purpose misfires, an opportunity may have been lost.

Still on breaking into the mainstream of current affairs tv, ITV's 3-D and the BBC's flagship *Panorama* both covered disability issues recently. The first carried an item about the Direct Action Network and the second examined abuse of people with learning disabilities.

Unfortunately, I only heard about these after the event, because listings (from which I make my choices) often do not describe the subject to be covered in case they are changed near transmission.

Production companies should take note. *DN* needs to know about your work.



## Music

## Stream Records

I was terrified when I was asked to review these releases from the Stream record label. As I have so few friends in the disability movement, I didn't want to alienate the few I do have!

But *Rollin Thunder* by Ian Stanton is a classic. It has protest songs recorded in an acoustic style mixed with more studio-based tracks, all sprinkled with Stanton's dry wit.

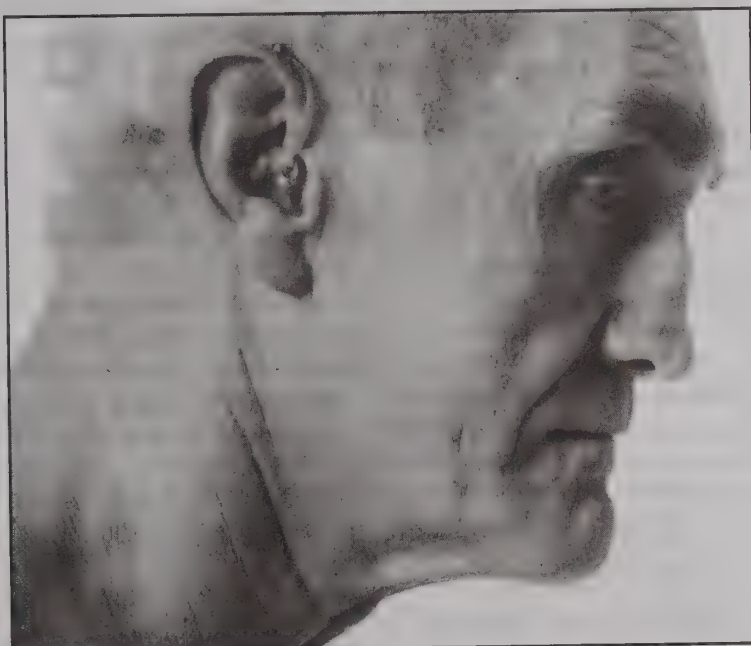
"Invisible" is a my bet for a single and "Rollin Thunder" will become the "Free Nelson Mandela" of the disability movement.

*Nice Work* by Claire Graydon James offers versions of classic Gershwin numbers. She has a beautiful voice, complemented perfectly by the orchestration.

*Fish Out of Water* is fronted by Genie Cosmos, Stream Records' managing director. So, with my feelings about *Lucky Scars*, there go my chances of getting a deal with her!

This is the weakest album of the three releases, mainly because of the poor vocal performances on all the tracks. As a jazzy album it works. The musicianship is very good, but it lacks polish. It sounds like a collection of demos and not a releasable, finished product. Sorry Genie.

Mik Scarlet



Tim Barlow of New Dance Theatre: intimate yet raw atmosphere

HUGO GLENDINNING

Dance  
Crocodile  
Looking  
at Birds

*Crocodile Looking at Birds*, at the Lyric Theatre, Hammer-smith, west London was a New Dance Theatre Collaboration, based on the writer/director Sheila Hill's experiences and conversations since a spinal injury ten years ago.

The text, part written, part edited, used memories and taped interviews with hospital patients and performers to explore how the body defines our worlds. It interweaved

accounts of sudden loss with more universal experiences of change and ageing. The six performers told us incidents in their own lives or those of others.

At times they were amusing — Danny Cerqueira agonised over the best moment to let a potential date know he was blind. This was a remarkably convincing performance for a sighted actor.

There were the confessions of fragility and self containment that come from being in your 84th year. Jane Dudley, who danced with the Martha Graham Company in the 1930s and 1940s, poignantly drew us into her confidence.

The cast brought slickness and sensitivity to the piece and created an intimate yet raw atmosphere. The fractured narrative dispelled an emotional overlay that could easily have

become entrenched in sentimentality, although 45 minutes seemed too short a time to explore the characterisation and physicality of the performers.

Jonathan Lunn's choreography/staging was sparse, and I would have liked to have seen more of the physicality that these performers are capable of.

Dance is the perfect medium to have linked these testimonies to make the piece more coherent and visually more exciting.

Celeste Dandeker

## Video top five

1. **FORREST GUMP** (CIC): Tom Hanks gives an Oscar-winning performance in this tear-jerking tale of America since the fifties. □
2. **THE CLIENT** (Warner): Lawyer Susan Sarandon represents a young murder witness, protecting him from corruption, and Tommy Lee Jones. □
3. **PULP FICTION** (Touchstone): John Travolta stars in Quentin Tarrantino's latest violent blockbuster. □
4. **IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU** (20:20 Vision): a lottery winner's spending plans are shattered when hubby splits the money with a waitress. □
5. **MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN** (Columbia Tristar): gothic imagery, blood and severed body parts — don't eat while viewing! □





Room to groom: the accessible Aegean wash-hand basin has a low level front edge and room for knees underneath. £215, from Armitage Shanks, tel: (01543) 490253.

If you or a member of the household is disabled, the bathroom is probably the first room in the house to be specially designed.

If you are a wheelchair user, you will have had to start from scratch. The original bathroom will be too small. If there is a downstairs loo, chances are you will not be able to get in it.

Space really is the most important thing – lots of it. If where you live is very small but there is land adjacent, you might need to consider an extension, or as an alternative, getting a pre-fabricated bathroom unit as an extra room.

Newspace (building systems) will build a bathroom to your specification in their factory, apply for planning permission, provide a complete unit and

attach it to your house. Tel: (01964) 543455.

For many homes, this will not be possible, and there may not be room to extend. Faced with this dilemma, and a ridiculously small bungalow loo, some friends of mine, both of whom use wheelchairs, put in a dormer bedroom and stairs up from the entrance hall and made their spare bedroom into an accessible bathroom. Now anyone can use it.

#### Doors

Sliding doors take up less space than hinged, but they may have more problems. Sliding door gear needs more maintenance than hinges, and you may lose the length of wall where the door slides open.

Good, easy-to-operate catches

# Wash and go

How do you choose bathroom equipment that suits your needs?

are few. But it is possible to slide a door between two sheets of partition board so that you don't lose the wall space.

The Wellington range from Albert Marston includes an excellent fastener which most people find easy to use. It can be opened with a screwdriver if anyone gets stuck. £25.52, from Albert Marston, tel: (01902) 366931, product ref. 37651.

#### Floors

Bathrooms are wet areas, which means water can get into the walls or through the ceiling or making the floor slippery and dangerous. Wet ordinary carpet is prone to rot. Loose rugs or bath-mats are an accident waiting to happen.

Non-slip sheet PVC, available in a range of colours and designs, achieves its non-slip quality through tiny aluminium oxide crystals embedded in the surface.

With welded seams and a turn up around the walls, a completely damp-proof membrane can be glued on to virtually any surface.

Seam welded sheet PVC is a specialist contractor's job. Once down, it is virtually indestructible.

#### Handrails and grabrails

Handrails can be a tremendous

help just being there to hang on to. They can also double as towel rails. But they can look institutional or down-right ugly, and be most uncomfortable to hold.

Hewi (UK) supplies a brilliant co-ordinated system of hand rails and bathroom accessories in bright colours.

All the fixings are hidden, the designs comfortable and attractive and warm to the touch. The range features a movable chair, which can be hung from horizontal handrailing, under a shower holder or curtain rail.

This is top-of-the-range equipment. The movable shower chair costs £392, product ref. 33.4025, tel: (01634) 377688. But it is immensely strong, and looks as if it will last forever.

#### Showers

Good electrically-heated units are inexpensive, easy to install and run hot for as long as you choose to stand or sit under them.

Modern thermostatically-controlled mixer valves and anti-scald devices really work. Level-access shower trays are very nearly level-access, and full shower cubicles do not leak water all over the place.

Waste water pumps mean that

you can put a shower cubicle almost anywhere.

Some shower cubicles come with a built-in WC (mini-bathrooms). Even the controls are becoming less fiddly with push button, levers and proximity switches being incorporated into designs.

Triton manufactures a wide range of shower units featuring easy-to-use controls from extension levers for conventional dials to touch pad controls on the Topaz T80 (about £132) and T100 (about £185). Tel: (01203) 344441.

Meynell Valves can supply an electronic shower, activated when a hand is placed in front of the control box. Combined with a memory retaining shower unit such as Coronet from Gainsborough Electrical or the Triton Topaz T200i (from £360), nearly everyone should be able to shower independently. Meynell Valves, tel: (01902) 28621. Gainsborough Electrical, tel: (01603) 797171.

All we need now is a voice-activated shower head adjustment system: "Up a bit, left, left a bit more, stop, vibro massage on."

#### Baths

Showers take up much less space than baths, and you can get under a shower in a wheelchair, but it's not the same as lounging, fully submerged in warm water. If you have difficulty getting into and out of the bath, a bath-top board and seat really make a tremendous difference.

The board and seat allow you to lower yourself in a sitting position into the water in three "steps" and then reverse the process on the way out.

Combined with suitably positioned grab rails, many wheelchair users need no other help to have a bath. But there is still the bath seat nestling in the small of your back so you can't lie down.

One improvement is to install a lifting and lowering seat. These are small, powered lifts which fit to the bottom of the bath at the end away from the taps. At the top of the lift they come up level with the rim of the bath and act like a bath board.

All have their own unique features and finding the product which suits you can be something of a lottery. Before buying one, try out a few at your local disabled living centre or at Naidex.

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# the easy way

Rob Jackson gives advice and checks out what's available

## Bath lifts

Thousands of disabled and elderly people use bath lifts. They have one important snag: even at their lowest position you are not sitting on the bottom of the bath but two or three inches higher.

They are also relatively bulky items, not easy to take out, and where do you put it when one of the non-disabled members of the household wants a bath?

The Appollo is a standard sized bath with a built-in transfer system and lifting seat. At the bottom, the lift seat fits neatly into a recess and becomes part of the bath bottom.

At the top, its seat swivels through 90 degrees just over the lip of the bath so you sit in it sideways, swing your legs over the edge of the bath, swivel the seat back, and operate the control to lower yourself into the tub.

Several companies now supply the Appollo including Nicholls and Clarke, tel: 0171-247 5432, Keep Able, tel: (01933) 679426 and BKF Homecare Products, tel: 0161-437 7690. From £1,800.

There are also differences in the way the controls operate. Anyone interested should try out some of the others on the market.

Other suppliers include Parker Bath, tel: (01425) 622287, Arjo, tel: (01452) 500200 and Dolphin Special Needs Bathrooms, tel: (01905) 748500.

## Far fetched

Lifting a bather in and out of the bath is one way of doing it, the other is to lift the bath and water up around the bather. I know it sounds a bit far fetched, but this is exactly what Fyne Design's Aqua Nova does.

A bathing platform at about seat height sits just inside the rim of the bath, which can be full of water underneath.

Once you have got yourself on the platform, the bath rises at a flick of a switch and the water swooshes round you through holes in the platform. Aqua Nova starts from £3,180 and comes in standard as well as whirlpool versions, tel: (01270) 886143.

All of these kinds of accessible baths have the same problem. You have to lift your legs over the side of the bath getting in and getting out. Baths with doors in them literally allow you to walk wheel, or slide in, close the door, and fill up. There are two basic designs,

front or side loading.

Front opening types include baths that can be entered in a wheelchair and you can wash yourself in the chair. Most have a built-in seat and you wash yourself in an upright sitting position. Some can be filled up with water to above shoulder height. You can't open the

Easy-bathe, from Gainsborough Bathrooms, tel: 0121-433 3242, is capable of some customisation. Medic-bath, tel: 0161-231 7495, supplies a complete range.

Slide-opening doors can allow very easy sideways transfer from a wheelchair but just like baths with a built-in lifting and



Easy slider: slide opening doors on the Parker bath allow easy sideways transfer from a wheelchair. From £3,110, tel: (01425) 622287.

door, even by mistake, when the bath is full of water, and the doors don't leak, believe me.

Baths of this kind are taller but take up less floor space than conventional baths. Most come with whirlpool options, a built in shower for hairwashing and other features. Prices range from £700 to more than £3,000.

lowering seat, there may be a problem lifting your legs up and on to the bathing platform. The Parker bath overcomes this by allowing sideways transfer in a more or less sitting position. Then, when the side door is hinged down, the whole bath tilts backwards, so you bathe in a reclining position.

The Parker bath (domestic), from £3,110, tel: (01425) 622287.

## Toilets

The Clos-O-Mat Samoa combines a standard WC, bidet and warm air bottom drier with the easiest to operate controls on any toilet.

Another really useful innovation is a macerator and pump unit attached to the WC. Basically, solid matter is liquified and mixed with water so that it can be pumped to the sewer.

This effectively means that you can put your WC anywhere in the house. The model depends on how far and how high the waste has to be pumped. Tel: 0181-842 0033.

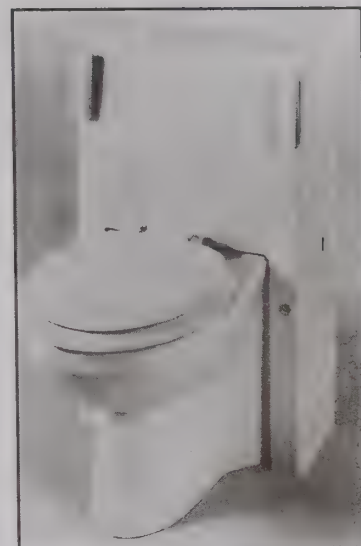
If working out your bathroom seems like too much hassle, Dolphin Special Needs Bathrooms, tel: (01905) 748500, offer a design, supply and fit service to meet all needs.

## Mini-bathrooms

Perhaps the ultimate in modern ingenuity is the mini-bathroom. This is basically a shower cabinet with a WC, complete with macerator and waste pump and so can be plonked down anywhere. Prices range from £1,000 to over £4,000.

Wheelchair accessible versions are available. Chiltern Medical Developments, tel: (01869) 246470, Loire Polyester (UK), tel: 0161-775 7915 and Arjo, tel: (01452) 500200, offer most of the variants. They tend to be flimsy constructions.

The real difference is that, for example, Tote Suite 100, from ADM Sales and Contracts, can



Clos-O-Mat's Samoa toilet combines a standard WC, bidet and warm air bottom drier

be installed in 24 hours. Tel: (01924) 455353.

## Finishing it off

How about drying off in a warm air current that envelopes your whole body?

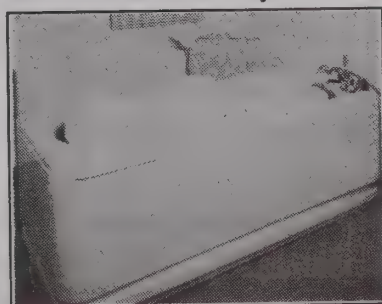
Most people will be familiar with warm air hand and face driers. Whole body driers work the same way.

Luxaire, about £1,800, from Total Hygiene, tel: 0161-866 8080, is wall mounted for you to wheel, sit or stand in front of, but I'm not completely happy about the controls.

Apreshower, from Nichols and Clarke, can be mounted in the corner of a shower unit and is operated by a pull cord. £276, ref. no. p68204.01, from Nichols and Clarke, tel: 0171-247 5432.

Rob Jackson is director of the Derbyshire Centre for Integrated Living.

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DN7/95L



**A Summer Plague: polio and its survivors**  
by Tony Gould  
£19.95, Yale University Press,  
from bookshops

The nineties are shaping up to be the decade of disability. However, this timely study adds to the bandwagon, rather than attempting to understand an issue that is fundamentally social rather than epidemiological.

Perhaps this is because the response to polio in the first half of the twentieth century was fundamentally about denial. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whose story overshadows the first half of this book, symbolises the inability of Western societies to come to terms with the disease, and the disabled lives that resulted.

Unlike Hugh Gallagher, whose *Splendid Deception*, focused on FDR's attempt to pass as non-disabled, Gould plays down the political dimensions of the issue, and of the polio epidemic in general.

Instead we have a book about medicine, doing for polio what *The Band Played On* did for HIV/AIDS: covering the epidemic, the search for a cure and especially the vaccine.

This personalised account shows no understanding of recent developments in the disability world, not least language: here we read of "the disabled", "the wheelchair bound" and "the polios". Gould may possess impairment, but he lacks insight into disablement.

The book's second half contains accounts of individuals from Britain and America (the briefest mention of the Developing World experience makes the coverage highly Eurocentric).

Again the theme is denial, people like Ian Dury, only recently affiliating with the disability movement, rather than polio survivors such as Alan Holdsworth (in the UK) and the late Ed Roberts (in the US) who would have given a radically different account.

There is much of interest here, and others may be less disappointed with the sentiment (ingenious adaptations, heart-warming relationships) and the medical viewpoint.

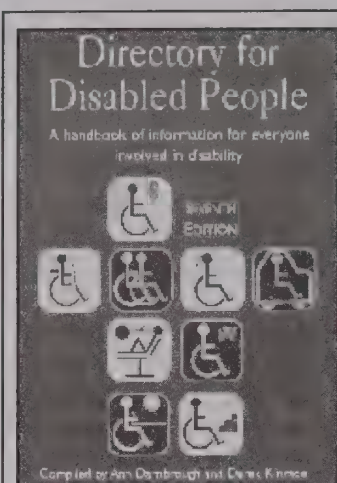
I preferred the discussions of Post-Polio Syndrome, which seems to have led to survivors "coming out" – recognising frailty and ending the denial that disability has anything to do with them.

We see the acknowledgement of difference at last, despite the lack of acknowledgment of discrimination and prejudice.

The mass impact of polio was a missed opportunity for the West to come to terms with the social dimensions of disability, and acknowledge the ubiquity of impairment.

That historic failure is echoed in the limitations of this book – although it may be that the decades of denial and discrimination are finally coming to an end for disabled people.

Tom Shakespeare



DN's Ann Darnbrough is co-author, with Derek Kinrade, of the seventh edition of *Directory for Disabled People: a handbook of information for everyone with an interest in disability*. Published by Prentice Hall/Harvester Wheatsheaf with the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, it costs £22, plus £3 p&cp. From Wendy Botwright, Paramount Publications, Campus 400, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 7EZ, tel: (01442) 882030.

**Caring: how to cope**  
by Janet Howard  
£4.99, Health Education Authority, from book shops

This is a most comprehensive guide for carers, written in straightforward language you can understand. Carers do not have a great deal of time or energy to work through jargon.

It is well written, nicely illustrated, easy-to-read and easy to find the information you want. The layout is clear and it is sensibly priced.

The format is unusual, but thoughtfully presented: a collection of carers' comments followed by many positive suggestions of help and where to obtain it, all gathered under specific headings to make it quick and easy to understand.

It takes a carer through the caring experience, beginning with becoming a carer, and allows time to speak of carer's feelings and health – actually putting the carer first.

Then it works through who can help, securing rights, making life easier, organising money, and bereavement.

As a bonus, there are telephone numbers and addresses of people who can help – you don't have to search for them.

I found many of my problems as a carer highlighted and answered (I have been looking after my elderly mother for 15 years) and I thought of the frustration of trying to get the answers myself. I wish every carer could have a copy.

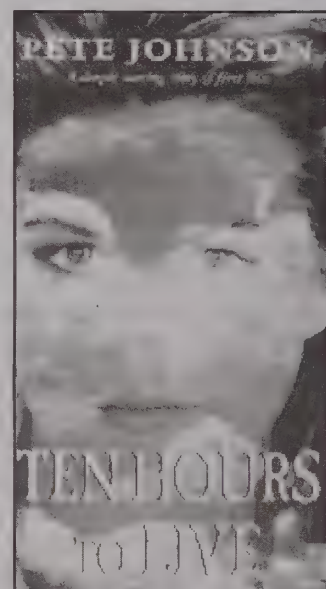
Jean Bland

Six DN readers will be able to find their way around the UK's hostellers with authority this summer, thanks to *The Which? Guide to Country Pubs*. They were the first to enter last month's competition to win free copies of the guide. The lucky six are: Douglas Campbell of Milton Keynes, Bucks, Tony McTeare of Finchley, north London, M Bycroft of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, P Lancaster of Newton Abbot, Devon, Robert Johnstone of Skelmersdale, Lancs and R H Jayne of Ruardean Hill, Gloucs.

## Book news

*Mustn't Grumble: writing by disabled women*, edited by Lois Keith, is this year's winner of the Mind Book of the Year Award. Disabled women, including Jenny Morris and Nasa Begum, explain their lives and experience of disability. £7.99 from bookshops or from The Women's Press, tel: 0171-251 3007.

In August 1993 model Heather Mills lost her leg after being knocked down by a police motorcyclist. *Out On a Limb*, with Pamela Cockerill, published by Little Brown, tells her story, from sleeping rough at Waterloo Station to a successful modelling career, and then setting up the Heather Mills Health Trust to help amputees in Croatia. £14.99 from bookshops.



Pete Johnson's *Ten Hours to Live*, (above), published by Mammoth, is available in braille. A tale of love and bereavement, it has been compiled by Caryn Welch, librarian at Bramcote Park School, Nottingham. £3.99 from bookshops, or braille version, £5, from Caryn Welch, tel: (0115) 9225816.

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# 'Wild birds can captivate any one of us, whatever our circumstances'

(6) All you need to enjoy birdwatching is time and patience, writes Anthony Chapman

I sit in my wheelchair beside the window on a summer's day. Within twenty feet of me are a small pond, a bird bath and a peanut feeder which is constantly used by greenfinches, their bright yellow wingbars flashing in the sunlight.

Chaffinches and dunnocks peck over the ground where my enabler has scattered some mixed seeds. From another window I watch blackbirds and robins foraging the lawn for worms and insects with which to feed their young.

High in the fork of a birch tree a mistle thrush is incubating

geographical location on the western seaboard of Europe.

Provided you have the transport, and preferably a pair of binoculars and field guide, anyone can do this, whatever their disability. Much depends on where you live or take your holiday, but you can be sure that there will be one or more good birdwatching places within reach.

There are the nature reserves, Wildfowl and Wetland Trust centres, country parks, National Trust properties, municipal parks, open spaces and forests where visitors are welcome.

evening I shall certainly hear their strange, plaintive whistling which hints at a primeval wildness. Later, in the dusk, I may be lucky to hear a nightjar "churring".

## Watch from your car

All this is enjoyed from my car. It serves as an excellent hide in July when, with the owner's permission, I park in a grass field to marvel at the lithe summer falcon as it pursues chafers with a speed, agility and grace that always thrills me.

Come the winter, the warmth of the car protects my vulnerable legs from the coastal chill when I watch thousands of pink-footed geese descend on the sugar-beet fields of Norfolk. It is the vocal clamour of these wild visitors from Iceland, as they fly out in skeins to roost on the Wash sandbanks, that can transport you from your daily cares.

On such occasions I find it useful to fix a small telescope to a window mount for closer views of the quarry.

But do not be dismayed if such wild places are beyond your reach, because it is the

everyday encounter with the commoner birds that delights most people.

I still enjoy watching a blue tit bathe near the window or carry moss to a nearby nestbox.

During the long summer days I shall watch my favourite small



Favourite: the spotted flycatcher RSPB

bird, the spotted flycatcher, hawking for insects if, hopefully, a pair returns to this garden from its wintering quarters in Africa.

Birdwatching is often a matter of sitting and observing, providing you have the patience to go with it.

## Practical Tips

- Make your garden bird friendly. Put out food in winter and spring and water all year round. Put up a nestbox, and plant trees and shrubs.
- Obtain a pair of binoculars if you can manage to hold them, if not don't worry, because much can be seen (and heard) without them. Go for a lightweight type. Reputable stockists, for instance, In Focus, 204 High Street, Barnet, tel: (01281) 4491445, sometimes have open days around the country where you can try out various makes.
- A bird identification guide is essential. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) shops sell them.
- Birdsongs are delightful and an important aid to identification, especially for people with poor eyesight. The cassette series *Teach Yourself Bird Sounds* has a helpful spoken commentary. From Birdsounds, Department RX4, Crofter Street, Salthouse, Norfolk NR25 7XH, tel: (01263) 741100.
- The RSPB can provide free leaflets on accessible parks and reserves, including a free leaflet *Advice for Disabled Birdwatchers*. For people on low incomes there is a reduced subscription. RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, tel: (01767) 680551.



Anthony Chapman: even in hospital, birds provided amusement O MAURICE

eggs in its moss-filled nest. I can see its bright eye or projecting tail through binoculars. I glimpse a long-tailed tit gathering nest material from the old apple tree in front of the kitchen.

All these ornithological incidents can happen in an ordinary, quite small garden.

When I injured my spine, and was confined to hospital, I had to be content with tits on the feeder, and thrushes, rooks, woodpigeons and black-headed gulls on the wide lawns. But even they provided some amusement; for it is the liveliness, colour and sounds of wild birds in all their variety that can captivate any one of us, whatever our particular circumstances.

Britain has an astonishing variety of wild birds in any season because of its

I know from a national guide I compiled many years ago (now out of print) that several of these properties are to some extent accessible by wheelchair, or for those with walking difficulties. Some provide firm paths, rest seats, hides with wheelchair access, and good parking and reception facilities (including the all-important accessible wc.

Most of my birdwatching is enjoyed in East Anglia. At this time of the year I will drive to the local gravel pits to watch for early swallows and sand martins and to admire great crested grebes displaying their ornate breeding plumage.

On a fine weekend I will head for those grassy heaths that remain between the vast forest of Breckland in the hope of spotting a few stone curlews on the bare, stony ground. At



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alternatives. Suppliers Quest 88 has the expertise to provide specific orthotic support items which can be designed to personalise the equipment for each user. Quest 88 Limited offers a complete training programme and care service. To find out more contact them on (01952) 463050 and ask for Jerry Henshaw.



# Kind words do not ease pain of loneliness



Ann Darnbrough, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Is loneliness the most severe and intransigent disability of all? Most people experience loneliness at some time in their lives and it can be a fearsome companion. Somehow, it often seems to be our own fault.

All we need to do, a small voice inside insists, is to get out and about and join in activities going on all around us. In this way we will make friends.

It isn't as simple as that. For disabled people the problems may be even more acute. It seems that loneliness can stalk some disabled people more ferociously than others. That is certainly the conclusion that Richard (not his real name) has come to. He is also sick and tired of hearing well-meant words that are of no help to him at all – and that includes mine. I accept the criticism.

"As a 26-year-old man, I read your article about overcoming the howling pain of loneliness (DN May), and I thought, 'God, how often have I heard

this before, yet still, for years, I am in pain'. You said what I knew ages ago. Don't get me wrong, you are a nice lady, but you aren't helping me, I'm afraid. You are just adding to my pain.

"Loneliness and having no one to turn to isn't just a matter of being able to go out or not. It is a matter of having no shoulder to cry on, no one to touch and to be touched by, no one to share with you the physical pleasure that able-bodied people take for granted. Don't tell me I could pay for it by going to a prostitute, or I could play with myself, as all the so-called counsellors or others would suggest.

"I tried as best as I could to find a girlfriend or partner for a few years and I couldn't. I am told to keep on trying and that in the end the problem can only be solved by myself, as you also suggested. Tell me, how I can solve this, as I am disabled? I am not good looking and I

don't have much to offer. How can I attract a beautiful – or even a nice – girl, disabled or not? Don't tell me girls only care about your inside. You know that is only a bad lie – appreciation about the inside comes later.

"My dear Ann, my howling pain of loneliness comes from my howling pain of not having sex and not being able to enjoy the physical pleasure of it, which is one of the most important parts of anybody's life. I wish people could help instead of talk, talk, talk – talking never helps me. Put yourself in my place and feel what I feel."

## A UNIQUE SERVICE!



The DN telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor,

fully accredited Methodist local preacher, and qualified homeopath. Disabled herself, she can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (01708) 477582. DN's helpline is sponsored by British Telecom.

It is absolutely true that words are never enough – particularly from a stranger. But is silence preferable to at least a limited form of communication?

I wish I had a magic solution to finding a partner for those who are lonesome – nobody seems to have that. When there is no partner in sight, the world can seem a very lonely place.

At such times we have to hang on to the belief that out there somewhere there is the right person for us and we just have

to keep hoping, after all they're looking for us too. If you can believe this, at least most of the time, then you have to make sure you are ready when the opportunity arises.

The day before such a discovery, life can be as lonely as usual, but the day after a new dawn begins – we have to be prepared.

## Can you help?

Many readers must have experienced loneliness, it afflicts so many of us, can you offer advice to Richard and others with similar problems on how to live with it and how it can sometimes be overcome?

Even though words so often can be frustrating, shared personal experience can be encouraging, even if it is just knowing that others experience similar unhappiness.

I have, of course, replied personally to Richard, but I am sure he would be glad to have other views. I can pass these on to him, as well as including them in a future column.

## Sharing the experience of ME

Regular readers will be familiar with my correspondent in Russia, Nataly, who has ME. (Myalgic Encapalomyelitis). In recent months, I have been able to send her information from readers about how they cope with ME, along with details of nutritious diets.

Nataly has written to DN: "It

is a pleasure to read Ann's column and to find out that I am not the only one who needs help.

"She manages to give me all that I have lost. Communication is so important for us, as we have been forgotten by everybody, former friends who are afraid that we will ask for something they are not able to give us, doctors who have given up the idea of curing us, and even our relatives who are not ready to 'waste' money."

That communication, I must emphasise, was considerably helped by readers who wrote to offer advice based on their own experience. That is, after all, what this column is all about – sharing problems, joys, and sometimes solutions.

Another reader with ME, Rosemary, who is a nurses' tutor, recommended a book called *Recovering from ME – a guide to self-empowerment*. The write up (I have not seen a copy myself) describes techniques developed by the author designed to enable you "to take control of your symptoms and use positive steps to promote your recovery and heal yourself physically, emotionally and spiritually... you will learn about: the symptoms, cycles and routes to recovery, the relationship between ME and the immune system, the latest research into the causes and treatment of ME, and the specific techniques that bring ME under your control".

*Recovering from ME*, by Dr. William Collinge. £9.99, published by the Souvenir Press, tel: (01235) 835001.

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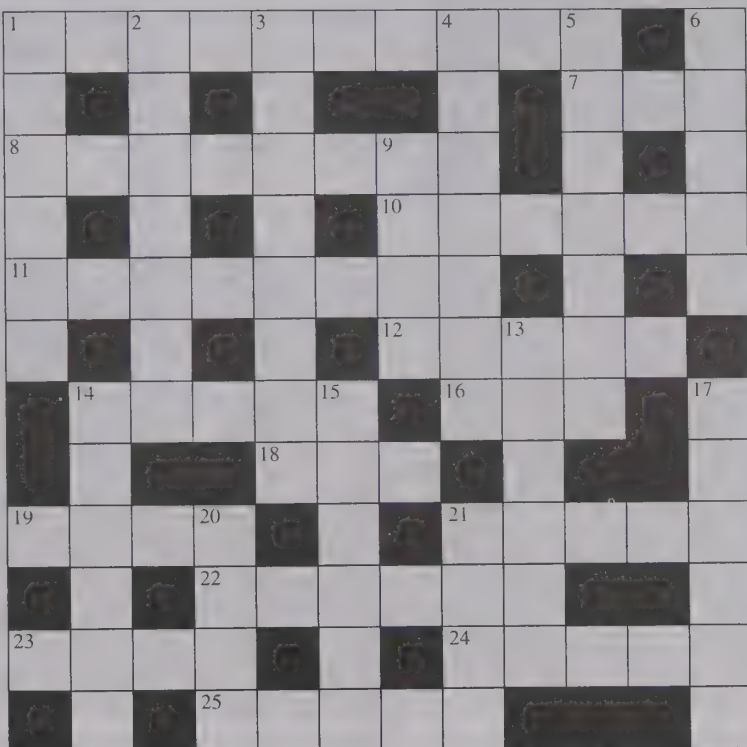
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# DN's crossword

Answers on page 39

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



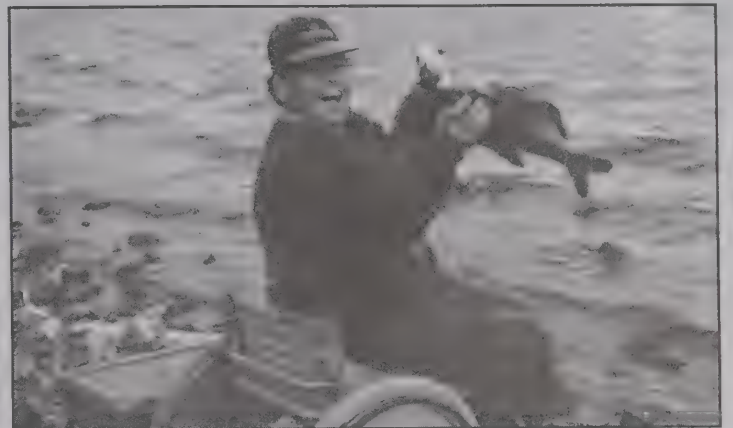
## ACROSS

1. Type of medical operation (10)
7. Imitate (3)
8. Stir teen (anag)
10. Speaker (6)
11. Caribbean island (8)
12. Group of eight (5)
14. Acceptable (5)
16. Rock formation (3)
18. Mythological boat (3)
19. Pull (4)
21. Big bird (5)
22. Laura \_\_, twentieth century poet (6)
23. Pacific island (4)
24. Style of Greek architecture (5)
25. Beg (5)

## DOWN

1. Pacific island (6)
2. Caribbean island (7)
3. Mediterranean island (8)
4. Tart cat (anag)
5. Air test (anag)
6. Organ involved in 1 across? (5)
9. Alone (4)
13. Caribbean island (6)
14. Group of Caribbean islands (6)
15. Slave (6)
17. Sermonise (6)
20. Hold (4)
21. Girl's name (4)

# Everyone's a winner!



## CLOS-O-MAT/DN FLY-FISHING COMPETITION

Congratulations to fanatical fisher Terry Moseley (above), winner of this year's Clos-O-Mat/DN Fly-Fishing competition.

Mr Moseley of Walsall couldn't believe it when he heard he had won. He is now looking forward to an all-expenses-paid fishing trip on the River Doon in Ayrshire. Entrants were asked to come up with a slogan to replace the Clos-O-Mat phrase "automatically the best". Mr Moseley's refreshing response was "the royal flush with a breath of fresh air".

D M Walters of Dyfed is the lucky winner of the runner's up prize. He will enjoy two days fishing and three nights in a luxury hotel. Find out how they do in September's DN.

## VICTORY AIRSHOW COMPETITION



Mrs A Wickens of Seaford, East Sussex was thrilled to discover she was a winner in DN's Victory Airshow competition. "I do loads of competitions but I don't often win so when you do it's a lovely surprise!" Mrs Wickens is one

of 15 lucky winners who won free tickets to the International Air Tattoo 95, the RAF's official victory airshow.

Congratulations to all the other winners - J Lewis of Barrowford, Lancs, M Hughes of Mohd, Clwyd, V Parsons of Keynsham, Bristol, K Anderson of Weymouth, Dorset, F G Hinton of Penzance, Cornwall, S Latter of Moor Farm, Hereford, L Drury of Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway, J Carpenter of Dursley, Glos, C Mitchell of Ilkeston, Derbyshire, E Caine of Moorfields, Hereford, C Whergat of Cirencester, Glos, F Linden-Wyatt of Northampton, M Taylor of Codsall, Staffs and A Marley of Consett, Co Durham.

## Trivia quiz

Answers on page 39

1. What was Paddington Bear's country of origin?
2. What is an eider?
3. Which pop group included Brian, Carl and Dennis Wilson?
4. Whose real name was Mary Ann Evans?
5. What type of food is an okra?
6. What language is spoken in Brazil?
7. Who was the second man on the moon?
8. Which county cricket team plays at Edgbaston?
9. The berry of which tree is used to flavour gin?
10. What actress played Holly Golightly in the film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*?

## SEND US YOUR FUNNIES!

Do you have an amusing tale to tell? If so we'd like to hear from you. Best side-splitters, of no more than 500 words, will be published on this page! Write to 'Funnies', DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

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The Chicken Shed Theatre Company includes actors of all ages and abilities. It is touring with a production of *The Attraction* (above), a musical about a powerful Gypsy King and his troupe of followers. For details contact the box office on 0181-449 1155.

## Look out for

*All Hands Touch Talks* guides from the Friends of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, south-east London, offer an opportunity to handle 10th-century objects. Particularly recommended for blind and visually impaired visitors. Visitor information, tel: 0181-858 4422, 24-hour information line, tel: 0181-293 9618.

Harlow College Community Arts Group will be performing at the BT National Connec-

tions Showcase of youth theatre at the Royal National Theatre, 30 June-5 July. The group includes performers with learning difficulties. Tel: 0171-254 6489.

*Hear No Evil* at Salford Museum and Art Gallery is a free exhibition of artwork by five deaf artists. 4 June-16 July. Monday-Friday, 10am-4.45pm, Sunday 2pm-5pm. Contact Sheena MacFarlane, tel: 0161-736 2649.

Albert Einstein ponders on the meaning of life with Marilyn Monroe in his bed in *Insignificance*, a play by Terry Johnson.

Signed performance, 13 July, 8pm, at Donmar Warehouse. Box office, tel: 0171-369 1732.

Signed and audio described performances at the West Yorkshire Playhouse this summer. Box office, tel: (01132) 442111, (01132) 445346 minicom. The Playhouse brochure is available on tape, tel: (01132) 444199.

The Palace Theatre in Southend is producing a signed performance of Stephen King's *Misery*, 6-22 July. Tel: (01702) 342564.

Alternative Arts' Disability Arts Day at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London on 30 July. Free, 2pm-5pm. Enquiries, tel: 0171-375 0441.

Candoco Dance Company International Summer School, 13-18 August at the Guttmann Centre, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. £25, Candoco Summer School Administrator, Buckinghamshire Regional Dance Council, c/o 125 Church Street, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK12 5LD.

## What's on

A documentary following the activities of Direct Action Network will be screened on 28 June at 11.35pm on BBC2.

Action 19+ conference on community care on 29 June at the Royal National Hotel, London WC1. Details from Helen Membrey, tel: 0171-387 9571.

The Dyrham Park Festival – 100 Years of Jazz and Dance, Chippenham, takes place between 30 June-1 July as part of The National Trust's centenary celebrations. £10, tel: (01179) 372501.

Drama training courses in London over the summer. There will be a voice workshop on 1-2 July, and an audition workshop for deaf actors on 15 July. Both are free of charge. For more information, tel: 0171-267 1959, minicom: 0171-267 3164.

The Way Ahead! is a one-day conference on parental involvement in schools on 4 July for voluntary groups, parents and teachers. At Baden Powell House, Queens Gate, Knightsbridge, London SW7. Tel: 0181-503 6529.

To Help – Not Hinder, a conference looking at issues for parents with learning difficulties on 5 July at The University of London Union, London WC1, £75. For more information, tel: 0171-729 5436.

Living alone – sharing responsibility, a one-day conference for professionals and members of the public on 11 July at the Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London WC1B. Organised by Help the Aged, £70. Details, Pat Baron, tel: 0171-253 0253.

Special Interest Group in Cerebral Palsy meeting on 14 July at 12 Park Crescent, London WC1N 4EQ. The subject is language in alternative and augmentative communication. Free to SIG members, £5 to non-members. Details from L Pitts, tel: (01608) 642559.

A sports day for people with disabilities at Braintree Leisure Centre on 15 July, 12-4pm. Coaches will be there to supervise athletics, kickboxing, carpet bowls, table tennis, archery, basket ball and skiing. For more information, tel: (01371) 850266.

A weekend of skills sharing, workshops and demonstrations looking at South Asian dance in education will take place on 15 and 16 July at the South Bank Centre, London. It will include performances of south Asian dance by disabled people. Tel: (01305) 264106.

The Cadbury's Strollerthon takes place on 16 July. This is a ten-mile sponsored stroll through London. Organised by One Small Step, some of the funds raised will help to provide residential respite care for children. Save the Children will also benefit from the event. For more information, tel: 0171-353 6060.

7th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled People 16-19 July in Reading. Details from Louisa Rogers, tel: 0181-847 2446.

The West Belfast Community Festival runs over the first two weeks of August. Events include a one-day mini fest of disability events on 11 August and *Arts and Disability: a celebration*, at St Agnes Hall, Andersontown Road. Details from Kate Ingram, Open Arts, tel: (01232) 312515 or Aidan Short, Disability Action, tel: (01232) 491011.



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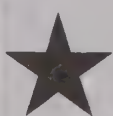
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## Online Disabilities Information Service

Disabilities Access is a free Internet based information service for people with disabilities and those who care for them. The service features: *News, Directories of resources, Job Vacancies, Factsheets, Travel information and Online shopping.*

The information provided on the service is relevant to both the general public and care professionals.

To take a look at Disabilities Access Online point your Web browser at the URL:

<http://www.pavilion.co.uk/daccess>

If you would like to promote your organisation, products or services on Disabilities Access contact Steve McCann on 0113 2346624 or E-mail us on [info@d-access.demon.co.uk](mailto:info@d-access.demon.co.uk)

## DISABILITIES access



GET ON THE NET

## Appointments

Kevin Holmes has been appointed as a development worker at the first council care scheme in the country. Patricia Lynn has been appointed chief executive of the National Library for the Blind. Ian Thorn has joined the Cystic Fibrosis Trust as its first PR director. The Greater London Association for Disability has appointed Zaker Hussain as a self-advocacy worker for young disabled people in London. Sara Cookson is the new press officer at the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.



## Arty facts

The Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond, Surrey, now has a minicom. For information on theatre and performances, contact Fiona Sturgeon, tel: 0181-940 7323, 0181-332 0369 minicom.

Highways 95 is a festival and exhibition celebrating positive images of disability. 2-3 July in Peter. For more information, tel: (01395) 274343.

IR's fair is a countrywide project for disability and the arts. Its organisers are disabled and able-bodied professional artists, musicians and dancers. For more information, contact Jean Cotton, tel: (01245) 436335.

The National Captioning Institute's VideoCaption Reader, 9, is available from any VHS/Blockbuster, Radio Rentals Global Video store, or by mail order from Sound Advantage, tel: (01733) 361199, (01733) 238020 minicom.

Facilities and Services for People with Disabilities is a new leaflet produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, covering the Barbican and theatres in Stratford-upon-Avon, detailing facilities and access. Free, in print, braille or cassette from Angela Banks, membership department, RSC, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6BB, tel: (01789) 205301.

## Info

Access for People with Disabilities is a leaflet produced by the Corporation of London detailing access information in the Square Mile. Available in large print, braille or audio tape from the Access Officer, tel: 0171-332 1995.

Broadland News, the quarterly newspaper of Broadland District Council, is now available on audio tape. Free to people who are registered blind or have a visual impairment. For more information, tel: (01603) 703203.

Extending Horizons is a publication for those who work with people who have severe learn-



Forest Enterprise has created a series of sculpture trails through a Cardiff woodland, thanks to £2,500 from BT's Countryside for All project. It was officially opened by world record holding athlete, Chris Hallam (above) in May. The trails vary in difficulty. For more information tel: (0114) 2687800.

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation has updated its guide to accessible toilets, The National Key Scheme Guide. £5, from RADAR, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 8AF.

Access to Leisure, by Coventry Leisure Services, details accessibility to museums, sports centres, libraries and other venues in the city. Large print, on audio tape and in braille. Free, tel: Sarah Lewis on (01203) 832430.

ing difficulties. It is based on the practical experience of students, parents, carers, teachers and advisers, £35. Contact Sue Elkins, tel: 01298 872651.

The Scope Quality Awards are made to individuals and teams who have made an exceptional contribution towards the achievement of Scope's mission and aim. Anyone can act as a nominee. Further details from

## Recruitment

### DisabilityNOW

Britain's leading disability newspaper needs two key people on its small team.

#### News reporter

£14,718 - £16,399 (inc ILW)

You must be an enthusiastic, flexible person, able to tackle urgent assignments and meet all sorts of people. You should have a degree level education, an NCVQ/NCTJ qualification, MS Word, and experience of writing news to tight deadlines. Knowledge of subbing, layout and dtp (Quark) would be helpful.

#### Editorial assistant/secretary

£13,102 - £14,394 (inc ILW)

We are looking for an enthusiastic, well-organised person to run the office and help with writing, subbing and proofing. You must have shorthand/typing, word processing (MS Word) and secretarial experience. Writing ability also essential.

Applications from people with disabilities welcome.

Send cv and examples of work to

Mary Wilkinson, Editor, Disability Now, Scope, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ  
Tel: 0171- 636 5020 ext 245

Closing date: 3 July 1995.

Juliet Fowler or Sue Stewart.  
Tel: 0171-636 5020, extension 201. Closing date for nominations is 31 July.

A picture hire scheme has been set up by the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People. Fees are similar to other picture libraries. Contact the Retail Trading Division, tel: (01372) 843616.

Oxford on the Level outlines a tour of central Oxford for wheelchair users. Tel: (01865) 726871 for a copy.

### Want to be a TV presenter?

Don't forget the closing date for Scope/DN's competition is Friday 21 July. For more details see June's issue or telephone 0171-636 5020.

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE  
bfi

4  
CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION

### BFI PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION DISABILITY AND CINEMA DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

BFI Production and Channel Four are currently looking for proposals from disabled directors, writers and producers for the development of film projects under the broad theme of 'disability and perception'. We are looking for strong, idiosyncratic ideas and stories that will provoke and challenge as well as engage their audience. At this stage there are no restrictions on genre, length or form except to say that we are looking for ideas which will ultimately be appropriate for screenings in cinemas as well as on television. We are happy to consider genuine collaborations between non-disabled and disabled creative individuals.

Please send an A4 sized S.A.E. marked 'Disability Initiative' to BFI Production, 29 Rathbone Street, London W1P 1AG in order to receive guidelines and full details. All material available in large format. The deadline for receipt of written proposals is 22 September 1995. Minicom number 0171 580 1839

Supported by



The 1994 Prudential Award for Film was won by The British Film Institute Production Board



## WITH A LITTLE HELP...

*A guide to equipment and services for independent living*

- Do you have a disability?
- Are you finding that daily tasks are becoming more difficult to manage?
- Do you know which items of equipment may be helpful to you?

*With a little help...* is a practical, extensively illustrated booklet providing advice and information on the thousands of useful gadgets and adaptations designed to make everyday tasks easier and enable people to stay independent for longer. It includes sections on household tasks, leisure equipment and outdoor mobility as well as advice on how to obtain equipment and lists of suppliers. For a FREE copy of *With a little help...* write, enclosing a self addressed envelope with 36p postage, to:

Disabled Living Foundation  
380-384 Harrow Road  
London W9 2HU

DISABLED  
Living  
FOUNDATION

Registered Charity No. 290069







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**Lightweight, Rigid & Folding Wheelchairs**  
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Wheelchair Insurance  
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Phone for a Brochure or Further Information:  
EPC Head Office  
Tel/Fax: 01252 547939  
EPC Regional Office  
Tel/Fax: 01203 422327  
A company run by the disabled - for the disabled!

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SPECIALISTS IN QUALITY USED ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS, SCOOTERS AND BATICARS  
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All with a warranty.  
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Good prices paid for used stairlifts.

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Is getting out of your chair into your car becoming more and more difficult, painful or just too much for your driver/carer?  
A Chairman Car from Gowrings means no more transferring, no more lifting, just travelling with the family whenever you choose, in comfort.

Ring us FREE on 0800 220878 for your full colour information pack.  
**GOWRINGS MOBILITY**  
Tel: 01635 529500



## HOISTS

for lifting wheelchairs, scooters and people into cars...  
**WE HAVE THE ANSWER**  
Ring 01629-813493 for brochure or free demo  
Autochair Ltd Milford Lane Bolewell DE4 1DX



**GETAWAY ELECTRIC TRIKE** with charger.  
As new, only used once. OK for rough ground and kerb climbing. Was £1,975. Try £1,100. Tel: (01634) 245293.

**ELAP ROTATING SEAT CONVERSION UNIT** for Sierra, £40. Tel: (01737) 353281.

**HONDA ATV, 3WH PETROL ENGINE.**  
Chunky tyres. Legally adapted, £500. Tel: (01582) 862744.

**CARCHAIR SYSTEM**, attendant wheelchair and electric hoist. Fits many 2 door cars, VGC £550. Tel: (01992) 643392.

**REG FIAT FIORINO** Feb '95, red 1.7 diesel, only 2,000 miles, enforced sale. Wheelchair access via rear ramp. Cost £10,700 new, £8,500 ono. Tel: 0181-508 3302.

**We've got it taped**  
Did you know that DN is available on tape? Contact Helen Crow on 0171-383 4575 for more information

**NIAGARA MASSAGE PADS**, hand units.  
Adjustmatic massage beds, reclining massage chairs, nearly new, half prices, reconditioned, year warranty, guaranteed first class goods. Part exchanges, repairs, COD, Access, Visa accepted. Tel: (01460) 61157.

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**SPECIALIST SUPPLIER OF USED WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES**  
Access conversions to your existing vehicle  
Passenger use conversions (windows trim and seating) to used vans.  
We sell and buy used vehicles.  
Tel: Office (01202) 814112, Mobile (0374) 899687.

**RECONDITIONED STAIRLIFTS**  
Stannah/Minivator, installed and guaranteed. Unwanted lifts purchased for cash.  
**DOLPHIN LIFTS**  
0181 861 2370.

**FOR SALE Sports Wheelchairs**  
£500 each  
Three new Cyclone M.T.M. wheelchairs not required by original purchaser. Suitable basketball or greater mobility. Details from: Lynette Learoyd, Leonard Cheshire Foundation  
Tel: 0171 828 1822  
Fax: 0171 828 0699

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**VEHICLE ADAPTATION & SPECIALIST**  
Conversion from hand controls to electric clutches for Petrol and Diesel  
Ramp, Hoist, Lift, Seat, etc.  
Supplied and Fitted  
For further information on the above or other services tel  
**01222 482804**

**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS WANTED.**  
TOP PRICES PAID.  
NEARLY NEW AND HARDLY USED FOR SALE FROM HALF PRICE.  
FREE COLLECTIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND ADVICE - ALL AREAS COVERED.  
TEL: NORTH 0161 237 5551  
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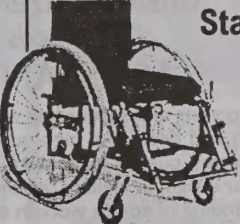
**The Lynx Hand Control**  
The ONLY control that transfers from car to car. Fits in 5 minutes - removal takes seconds.  
Your driving freedom will cost less than you think: For more details call: Lynx Hand Controls Ltd., on 01695 573816.  
SEE US ON STAND 150  
MOBILITY ROADSHOW

**D & K MOBILITY**  
Mobility Scooters, Electric Wheelchairs, Electric Recliners, Stairlifts, Batteries Etc, Servicing & Hire.  
62 Hollybush Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5QQ  
TEL: 01474-353837

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### FOR ALL YOUR CHAIR NEEDS:

Power, Manual, Lightweight, New, Used, All Sizes and suitable for all Ages. Also  
Stairlifts, car conversions and many other products.



Advice from Professional Disabled People always available.




**GBL Wheelchair Services Ltd**  
Brentford. Tel: 0181 569 8955 Fax: 0181 560 5380  
Littlehampton. Tel: 01903 733528 Fax: 01903 733530

## POWERCHAIRS (MOBILITY CONSULTANTS)

Nearly new, hardly used Electric Wheelchairs, Scooters, Baticars. All models wanted and for sale.  
The right one to suit your individual problem.

**FREE ADVICE, DELIVERY, COLLECTION. ALL AREAS COVERED.**

Fully Guaranteed  
Ring Mr Gibbons free on  
**0500 357 4965**  
or 0121-357 4965 anytime  
All major credit cards accepted



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Best range of special needs cycling equipment  
**CALL NOW**  
for information or demonstration.  
DEALERS NATIONALLY  
Neatwork, PO Box 2, Coldstream, Berwickshire, Scotland, TD12 4NW  
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**PRE-OWNED EASY ACCESS VEHICLES**  
1990 (G) RENAULT EXTRA FREEDOM 1.4 LITRE, red, designed to carry 4/5 adults plus wheelchair passenger. Lowering rear suspension for easy wheelchair access. One owner. Only £8,750 + VAT (if applicable).  
1985 (C) ESCORT CHAIRMAN 1.3 LITRE, white, 4 seats including driver, plus position for one wheelchair passenger. £3,950 + VAT (if applicable).  
Telephone Atlas Conversions (01705) 756265.

## Recruitment

### Counsellor

**DISABLED PEOPLE'S INDEPENDENT LIVING TEAM FOR ADULTS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY**  
Aged 16-64 years  
£19,000 - £21,000 (pro rata)  
14 hours a week - fixed term contract (for an initial period up to end March 1996)

We are looking for an experienced counsellor to join our well resourced, innovative multi-disciplinary Independent Living Team, based at Willesden Community Hospital.  
The successful candidate will provide short - medium term counselling in the client's own home.  
Experience of working with people with a physical disability is required as is a recognised counselling qualification.  
The postholder must be able to work alone and as a member of a team.  
Car driver essential.  
For further information, please telephone Ann Cohen, Team Manager on 0181 451 8258.  
For an information pack, please contact the Personnel Department, Parkside Health, Paddington Community Hospital, Woodfield Road, London W9 2BB. Tel: 0181 451 8139. Please quote reference number UP48.  
The closing date for completed applications is: Friday 21st July 1995.  
Interviewing date: Tuesday 1st August 1995.  
Applicants who are to be invited for an interview will be notified by telephone.  
Parkside Health NHS Trust operates a No Smoking Policy  
WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

## PARKSIDE HEALTH

MAKING A CAREER OF CARING

*Scope (formerly The Spastics Society) is the UK's largest charity working with disabled people. We exist to enable men, women and children with cerebral palsy and associated disabilities to claim their rights, lead full and rewarding lives and play a full part in society.*

### Principal Personnel Adviser

Salary in the region of £35k  
(A lease car will be available if needed)

"People are central to our success" - Scope's Mission Statement.  
Scope, formerly the Spastics Society, is seeking to recruit an exceptional personnel professional to lead the implementation of our people policy and strategy.  
This newly created post presents a challenging opportunity for a qualified personnel practitioner with at least 8 years experience (at least 3 of which will be at managerial level).  
You will ensure that the organisation has the necessary expert personnel advice, systems and procedures to be an exemplary employer and support the staff and volunteers of Scope in providing a high quality service to people with cerebral palsy, their parents and carers.  
You will promote ways of working and systems which value people, set high standards and maintain a focus on meeting the needs of Scope's customers and achieving our Mission and Aim throughout.  
You will work mainly in London and travel extensively in England and Wales.  
Write for more information and an application form to Sue Stewart, People Strategy Team, Scope, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4QE.  
Completed applications should be returned to Sue Stewart by Friday 7 July 1995.  
Interviews will be held week commencing 17 July 1995.  
We welcome applications from people with disabilities.  
We are committed to equal opportunities.

**SCOPE**  
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Charity No. 208231

## Holidays

### FREEDOM TO PLEASE YOURSELF!

Caravanning for wheelchair users can provide freedom. Freedom from the fear of the unknown. Freedom from fixed meal times. Freedom to please yourself.  
Avonbridge Specialist Conversions bring twenty five years of caravan expertise to people with special requirements. All conversions done by us are one offs to suit the particular requirements of the user.

Contact Mike Bridgeman at  
**Avonbridge**  
The Old Foundry, Stuckton, Fordingbridge  
Tel: 01425 654353 Fax: 01425 656646

STAND 184  
MOBILITY ROADSHOW

**NO LIMITS ADVENTURE TOURS**  
15 young and active disabled/able bodied people wanted for unique expedition. Leaving September for 1 and 2 months overland trips through Morocco. For further details tel Stuart King 01372 452419.

**WINCANTON, SOMERSET**  
The Garden Flat in association with Verrington Hospital offers comfortable, modern, self-contained, self-catering accommodation with wheelchair access in delightful rural location.  
For brochure / details ring Mrs Hawkins (01963) 32006 weekdays 9am-4pm.

**THE LAURELS, HOLBETON**  
Close to Plymouth and Dartmoor. Refurbished Victorian hotel adapted for wheelchair users. Spacious ground floor bedrooms. Half board and lunches. Groups welcome. Booking details, please phone Keith Grover (01752) 830580.



Energetic Fundraisers Required  
**ADAM AND APRIL'S OPTION FUND**  
 SOUTH WALES  
 COMMISSION ONLY  
 CONTACT DAVE SLOCOMBE  
 01633 222899

## Holidays

**PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL**  
 "1992 Holiday Care Award Winners"  
 Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.  
 Please ring or write for colour brochure.  
 R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617.

**MAR Y SOL - TENERIFE**  
 Wheelchair accessible apartments. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, poolside bar, equipment hire. Ring today for cheapest prices on flights. Video available.  
**ALGARVE - PORTUGAL**  
 Wheelchair friendly luxury villas in Portugal with swimming pools or small friendly hotel with adapted rooms. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraybury, Staines, Middx. TW19 5NX. Tel: (01753) 685718.

**St. Leonards, Sussex.**  
**7 berth caravan adapted for disabled people on Haven Site.** For colour brochure, Tel: **Shepway MS (01303) 242009.**

**Llandeilo, West Wales**  
**1994 HOLIDAY CARE WINNER**  
 3 cottages, all wheelchair accessible. Rural location and overlooked by 12th century castle. Ideally situated for exploring South and West Wales. Each cottage sleeps 4, central heating, CTV, games/fitness rooms, laundry, extensive grounds. Open all year, short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (01558) 823 059 for brochure.

**SOUTH WEST WALES**  
 Luxury caravans (one specially designed for wheelchair users and their families).  
 On beautifully situated, friendly family run park. 250 yds from sandy beach. Heated pool. Bar/restaurant. Games room. Sunrise Bay Holiday Park, Llansteffan, Carmarthen, Dyfed, SA33 5LP. Phone: 01267 241394.

**Brittany Cottage to let.** Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C Hodgson. Tel: (01924) 454300.

## HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

**AUBERGE DE LA TOUR** is a family run guest house offering holidays for people with a disability or mobility problems. Situated in the Loire Valley area we offer daily outings to Chateaux and other places of interest in our mini bus which is equipped with a tail lift.  
 For more information contact Mrs B Phillips, 20 Blackmore Court, Exmouth Devon EX8 4SG. Phone 01395 270429.

## CARLISLE

B+B Easy access M6 Junction 44.  
 Spacious wheel-in shower.  
 Separate ramped access.  
 £16.50 per night. Tel: 01228 27242.

## BEAUTIFUL ARRAN

Magnificent location, peace, comfort, good food - all you could wish for in a guest house, but with many extras for those special holiday needs. Fully accessible accommodation and a wide range of equipment and services, sensitively and discretely provided. Holidays tailored to suit individual needs. You can enjoy a holiday on Arran whatever your level of activity, and it's nearer than you think! For brochure and full details contact Graham and Barbara Williams, Strathwhillan House, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8BQ. Tel: 01770 302331.

## HOLIDAY COTTAGE WEST WALES

You'll find no better place than Swn Y Gwynt.

A former coach house newly converted specifically for people with disabilities, there are 2 twin bedrooms, one en-suite with assisted shower, the other upstairs with own bathroom. Kitchen fully accessible. Patio. Own garden. Parking. Marvellous views. Good touring centre. Reasonable rates include heating, TV. Telephone Grien on 01267 237261.

## Recruitment



Spinal Injuries Scotland  
 (Reg. Charity No: SC015405)  
 Requires a

## Co-ordinator/ Development Officer, part-time

(Position for 3 years)

£9,000 - £10,000 for 18 hours per week

Applicants must be enthusiastic, innovative and capable of assessing, reorganising and developing all areas of our activities/services. Experience in both the voluntary sector and disability is essential.

For a post/candidate description, plus application form contact: Spinal Injuries Scotland, Festival Business Centre, 150 Brand Street, Glasgow G51 1DH.  
 Tel/Fax: 0141 314 0056.

Closing date: 30th July 1995.

This post is open to all applicants and candidates with disabilities are particularly welcome.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE OF THE BLIND & DISABLED

### GENERAL SECRETARY

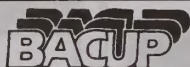
The NLBD, the specialist Union for people with disabilities, requires a General Secretary following the retirement of Michael Barrett OBE.

The post holder will be responsible for all aspects of the League's work, including administration, organisation, supervision of staff and finance.

Trade Union membership, experience and proven commitment is essential as is personal experience of disability. Salary (including London weighting) starts at £17,727 pa.

Application forms etc. from: *GS Application, NLBD, 2 Tenterden Road, London N17 8BE.*

Closing date for applications is Friday 14 July 1995 with interviews for shortlisted candidates on Friday 4 August.



## HELPING PEOPLE LIVE WITH CANCER

BACUP is a national charity providing information, counselling and publications to people with cancer, their families, friends and health professionals.

## FINANCE OFFICER

Salary circa £14,000 p.a.

To process all income and expenditure through a computerised accounting system ensuring the validity and accuracy of transactions to trial balance stage, and produce organisational and departmental reports on a monthly basis to set deadlines.

Applicants will be a Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians or a person possessing 6 years proven experience of financial reporting, internal controls and administration procedures, with a high level of competence in using computer accounting, spreadsheets and word processing software and good organisational and interpersonal skills. The closing date for applications is 17th July and interviews will be held during w/beg. 24th July.

For further information and an application form please contact Kim Fletcher, BACUP, 3 Bath Place, Rivington Street EC2A 3JR. Tel: 0171 696 9003.

BACUP WORKS WITHIN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FRAMEWORK

## FAST-TRACK

### You know you have the skills and talent to spare, but all employers ever see is your disability.

Fast-Track is a two year management development programme run by Scope in partnership with TEC's and nationally recognised blue-chip companies. It combines work experience with formal training, a post-graduate level qualification in management and a salary of £11,843. It's hard work, but it could be just the start you need.

The next intake is in January 1996. Applications are welcome from anyone of graduate calibre who has a disability.

For a Fast-Track information pack and application form, please call or write to: Fast-Track, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 6LP. Tel 0171 387 9571, Fax 0171 388 9775.

Closing date for applications is 28 July 1995.



This advertisement is supported by **British Gas plc**

Charity No. 208231

## EVERYTHING IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AT BLAGDON FARM COUNTRY HOLIDAYS DEVON

New, luxury bungalows, overlooking 2.5 acre lake and set in 38 acres picturesque countryside. Nature trail, adventure playground, pet's corner and large games room. For brochure contact Pauline & Tony Blight, Ashwater, Beaworthy, DEVON EX21 5DF. Phone 01409 211509. Fax: 01409 211510.

**GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS**  
**SELF CATERING COTTAGES**  
**FOR THE DISABLED**  
 Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford  
 Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT  
 Telephone: 01598 710241  
 Open all year. Wheelchair accessible.  
 Equipment available.  
 Please contact: Valerie Boddington

## Social Services

**Community Care (Primary) Division**  
**Randall Close Day Centre, SW11**

## DAY CENTRE MANAGER

£20,352-£21,423 incl. (S02)

Randall Close is a 50 place Day Centre for Elderly People and Adults with Physical Disabilities.

We are seeking a new Manager to continue to develop the service that we provide. You will need:-

- A Social Work, Educational or other relevant qualification (e.g. CQSW, DipSW, CSS, Teaching Certificate)
- experience of working with frail elderly people & adults with a physical disability
- proven management & administration skills
- experience of budgeting & financial control
- the ability to work with a wide age group of service users and to demonstrate innovative ideas in implementing equal opportunities as regards to age, disability and race in this multi-cultural centre.

In return we can offer you training opportunities, regular management review sessions and the opportunity to work in a challenging and rewarding day centre.

We particularly welcome applications from the African, Asian and Caribbean community who are under represented in our staff team. Section 38(1)(b) of the Race Relations Act 1976 applies.

If shortlisted, you will be given the opportunity of visiting the centre prior to interview.

For an application form and information pack please telephone 0181-871 6459 (24 hour answering service) or write to Richard Fihosy, Community Care (Primary) Division, Lyon House, 104 Wandsworth High Street, SW18 4LA quoting reference SS/534.

Closing date: 14th July 1995.

Interviews will be held on 3rd August 1995.

*The Council as an Equal Opportunity Employer welcomes applications regardless of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, disability or age. All applications are considered on the basis of their merits and abilities for the job*

## Wandsworth

## Bristol Citizens Advice Bureau

*needs a full-time*

### ASSISTANT MANAGER

Supporting and supervising volunteer and paid advisers, you will help maintain and develop a high quality and changing service. You should have 2 years' current experience in detailed generalist advice work and particular insight in welfare benefits issues. We also need experience and understanding of advice work in economically deprived areas.

**Starting salary - Local Authority Scale 6 - £14,637**

For further information and an application form please contact Joy Shepherd, Citizens Advice Bureau, 12 Broad Street, Bristol BS1 2HL or telephone 0117 927 3424. Information is also available on tape.

Closing date: Friday 21st July 1995. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 8th or Wednesday 9th August. We particularly welcome applications from black and minority ethnic applicants as they are under-represented at this grade in the workforce.

Bristol Citizens Advice Bureau is striving to provide Equal Opportunities for users and workers.  
 Charity registration number 1012557.

**citizens  
advice  
bureau**

## British Council of Disabled People

### Project Consultant

£21,000 (fixed fee)

BCODP has received funding to set up support programmes for "local" organisations controlled by disabled people. We are seeking an experienced disabled consultant on a ONE YEAR CONTRACT to investigate how this might be carried through. Where you live is not important as you will carry out the research in your own locality. However, we are seeking a person who has an intimate knowledge of the disabled people's movement, an understanding of the key issues that might affect the survival of new groups of disabled people and a real commitment to the empowerment of disabled people. Good analytical and communication skills are also essential. BCODP would like this consultancy to start in October '95. If you are interested in tendering for this contract then please contact us for an information pack (available in all formats). Closing date for tenders is 28th July.

Brian Hicks, BCODP, Litchurch Plaza, Litchurch Lane, Derby DE24 8AA. Tel 01332 295551. Fax 01332 295580. Minicom 01332 295581.

*BCODP is an equal opportunities employer*



# MANAGER

Bader House,  
Basildon.

£18,189 - £19,260  
plus £360 fringe weighting



**Essex County Council**  
Social Services  
**KEEPING ESSEX STRONG**

This is an opportunity for an enthusiastic and energetic Manager to work in partnership with service users, fieldwork colleagues and community resources during an exciting period of ongoing development and change.

Bader House, like Greenview its counterpart in South Ockendon, is no longer a traditional occupational therapy centre, and aims to empower and enable working age adults with physical and sensory disabilities to be as independent as possible. Over the last year the two Centres have established useful links, and have a joint Service Plan. A new Social Work post has recently been established specifically to work with people in the Centres to facilitate greater levels of integration in to the community. The next phase will be for the Managers to take lead responsibilities in developing effective links to work in tandem with mainstream community resources across Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock.

Management experience is essential and a Social Work or O.T. qualification would be an advantage. You'll also need a commitment to anti-discriminatory practice and an ability to promote equality of opportunity in service delivery.

For further information please contact Nanette Wright, Service Manager on 01375 390999 or Frances Franklin, Greenview Manager on 01708 853710.

Application forms are available from the Personnel Department, South West Essex Social Services Group, Ely House, Ely Way, Basildon, Essex, SS14 2BW (24 hour answerphone 01268 288938). Please quote Ref SW/DN/510.

Closing date :18 July 1995

*There's a spirit of change and development at work in Essex. After a far-reaching review of our services, we're moving rapidly towards a system of service delivery based fully on client specialisms. We're wholeheartedly committed to joint working with other agencies and care providers - believing it's the service people care about, not who delivers it.*

*We've decided against a strict purchaser/provider split, since we're convinced that it's better to have fully integrated services and clearly defined roles.*

## SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Secretary

£12,243 - £14,832 pa inc

We are looking for an enthusiastic and friendly person to give secretarial and clerical support to the Access Officer for people with disabilities and to assist two other secretaries with work for the Social Services department. The successful applicant will work closely with the Access Officer and her Assistant who deal with issues related to improving access for disabled people who use the streets and buildings in the City.

Applicants should be able to provide word processing (copy and audio) services to a high standard (at least 60 wpm) and will hold the relevant certificates. The post holder is required to deal with telephone calls and enquiries and to undertake some administrative tasks such as taking notes of meetings and liaising with the City of London Access Group. A courteous and helpful manner is essential. Applications from people with disabilities would be particularly welcome, and applicants should be able to demonstrate an understanding of some of the access issues faced by people with disabilities.

The post is based at Guildhall close to the Docklands Light Railway Station at Bank Underground and main bus routes. Interest free season ticket loans are available. Parking for orange badge holders is available. The building has lift access and wheelchair accessible WC's.

An application form and further details are available from the Director of Social Services, Milton Court, Moor Lane, London EC2Y 9BL. Tel: 0171-332 1218 or 0171-588 4579 (24 hour answerphone). Please quote reference: SEC1.

Closing date for applications: Monday 10th July 1995.

The Corporation of London is an equal opportunities employer

SERVING THE SQUARE MILE



## HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### Manager

PO2 £20,811 - £22,509

Based at Winkfield Resource Centre,  
London N22.

We are looking for a qualified experienced Manager to lead the staff group in this day unit for adults with Physical/Sensory disabilities. You must have either a CQSW, DipSW or CSS.

Applicants should have proven managerial and practice skills and the ability to plan services for individuals, including those with complex needs.

The energy, skill and experience to manage a flexible service and to involve staff, users, carers and other agencies are essential.

The post offers the opportunity to further develop this high quality service and to contribute to the over all provision of community care within the Borough.

People with disabilities who meet the basic criteria for this post will be guaranteed an interview ahead of other applicants.

The post is open to job-sharing. Applicants may apply with or without a job sharing partner.

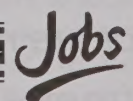
Applicants are welcomed from Black and Minority Ethnic communities, and in particular from women who are currently under-represented.

For an application form and further details, please send a large self-addressed envelope indicating reference number 101/95/DN in the top left-hand corner, to: Housing and Social Services Personnel, Recruitment, 40 Cumberland Road, Wood Green, London N22 4SG.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 14th July 1995.

**HARINGEY COUNCIL**

"Haringey is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer"



## We're Absolutely Positive you'll want to join us.

Having a disability often has no bearing on your ability to carry out a job. And where it has, a little creative thinking in the provision of aids or adaptations can make a real difference.

At Barnardo's we're taking positive steps towards recruiting people with disabilities to the whole range of posts within our London Division. These include staff working directly with children and young people, Managers, Secretaries and Administrators.

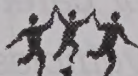
We guarantee that Registered/Registerable disabled candidates who meet the short-listing criteria for any of our posts will be interviewed.

People who are not disabled will only be considered if it proves impossible to find a suitable person with a disability.

Watch out for our regular advertisements in The Guardian, Community Care, The Voice, Care Weekly and local press.

Your application will be warmly welcomed.

**We're Absolutely Positive of that.**



**Barnardos**  
Giving children a chance

## WEST OF ENGLAND CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED LIVING

REQUIRES A  
DISABLED PERSON  
FOR THE POSITION OF

### EMPLOYMENT PROJECT WORKER

(BASED IN BRISTOL)

(SALARY: £16,575 TO £17,667)

To set up an Employment and Training Project for disabled people based on disability equality principles.

For further information contact:-

Lesley Kelly, WECIL LTD, Leinster Avenue, Knowle, Bristol BS4 1AR

Tel 0117 9839839 (voice and minicom)

Closing date: Wednesday 12th July 95

Interview: Monday 24th July 1995

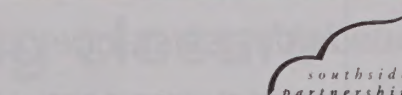
*WECIL is striving to become an equal opportunities employer and particularly welcomes applications from disabled people who face simultaneous oppression.*

Deadlines for August issue: booking by 14 July, camera ready artwork/copy by 18 July.

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**  
ACROSS: 1. Transplant  
7. Ape 8. Interest 10. Orator  
11. Anguilla 12. Octet  
14. Valid 16. Tor 18. Ark  
19. Drag 21. Eagle 22. Riding  
23. Fiji 24. Ionic 25. Plead  
DOWN: 1. Taiwan 2. Antigua  
3. Sardinia 4. Attract 5. Tastier  
6. Heart 9. Solo 13. Tobago  
14. Virgin 15. Drudge  
17. Preach 20. Grip 21. Enid

**TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS**  
1. Peru 2. A duck 3. The Beach Boys 4. George Eliot  
5. A vegetable 6. Portuguese  
7. Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin  
8. Warwickshire 9. Juniper  
10. Audrey Hepburn

**TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES**  
Please contact the Advertisement Director, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Limited, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Telephone 0171- 252 1362. Fax: 0171- 237 8019.



Southside Partnership provides supported housing for people with mental health and/or learning difficulties in Lambeth and Southwark.

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

POST REF: ADM8

£15,360 - £16,635 pa incl. FIXED TERM 2 YEAR CONTRACT

We are looking for an Administrative Officer to provide administrative support to our Care Services for people with learning disabilities and/or mental health needs. You will be based in our offices in Clapham. You must have at least 6 months office experience, word processing skills, a typing speed of at least 50 wpm and a polite and confident telephone manner.

Closing Date: Friday 14 July 1995. Interviews: Friday 4 August 1995

For an application form please contact Maria Tomkiewicz, Southside Partnership, Scout Lane, Old Town, Clapham SW4 0LA. Tel: 0171 498 4797 (24 hour answer service) and clearly quote the reference of the post which you are interested in.

Southside Partnership is addressing equal opportunities in all that it does.





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UK's largest networks of Motability dealers.

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